■ SPORTS / A25

Green Archers admit fielding ineligible player, to return '04 UAAP trophy

■ NEWS/ A5

Say yes to corruption to entrap bribe-giver, says anticorruption czar

■ THE WORLD / A12

Angela Merkel makes history as Germany's 1st woman chancellor

■ LIFESTYLE / C1

Sweet dreams are made of screens; couch potatoes will be pleased

Docs-turned-nurses still think, work like doctors

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF YOU THINK BEING A DOCTOR WILL PUT you in the express lane to a high-paying nursing job abroad, think again.

A number of Filipino doctors working as nurses overseas have been deported because of one crucial lapse—they forgot they were no

DOCS/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Say Chiz: Cops disappoint gathering of 'destabilizers'

By Michael Lim Ubac

IN ONE FELL SWOOP, Malacañang could have rounded up leaders of the opposition had it cracked down on "destabilizers" on Monday night, accord-

SAY CHIZ/ A22

BUTI HINDI NAG GATE CRASH !

'Emergency' jitters linger

DOJ admits drafting takeover document

By Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG DENIALS that President Macapagal-Arroyo will issue a proclamation of emergency rule vesting her with powers tantamount to martial law have failed to calm the fears of key sectors, including some of her allies.

The fears were heightened by the reported signing by Ms Arroyo of Executive Order No. 467 which supposedly embodied the emergency proclamation and allowed her to arrest political dissenters without warrants.

The INQUIRER obtained a copy of the "feared" EO 467. As released by the Palace, the order—signed by Ms Arroyo and dated Oct. 5—seemed like a politically innocuous document dealing with land administration as a tool for reducing poverty.

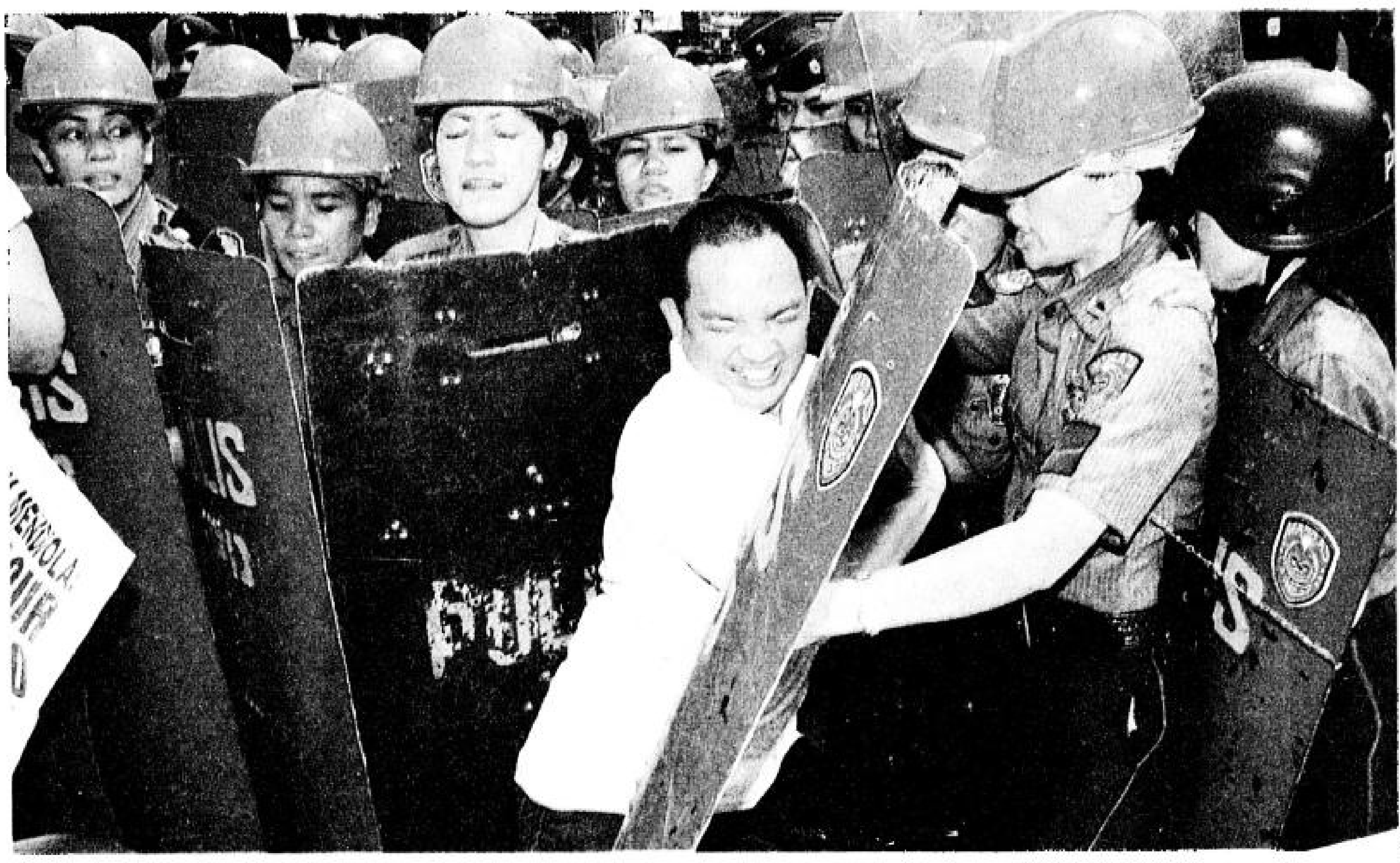
Fears of emergency rule were first raised by two opposition figures late last month when they told the INQUIRER that the Department of Justice had drafted a proclamation that would equip Ms Arroyo with powers just short of martial law.

Palace officials quickly denied the President planned to declare martial law, which the late Ferdinand Marcos imposed in 1972 to keep himself in power in the face of growing opposition to his rule.

The Palace appeared to make no distinction between the terms emergency rule and martial law, adding to the confusion.

On Monday, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez fed the rumors when he said he had drafted a proclamation for a "state of national emergency" that would autho-

EMERGENCY/ A22



MAN BRAVES WOMAN POWER. Antonio Tinio, chair of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers, is blocked by an all-woman dispersal team deployed for the first time on Tuesday by the Manila Police District to counter harsh criticism of the violent dispersal of rallies by the opposite sex in the past seven days. This one close to Mendiola was also dispersed on the spot but ostensibly with a kinder, gentler touch. REM ZAMORA

FVR minces no words, says it's a lot of B.S.

By Nikko Dizon and Luige A. del Puerto

ALL THE TALK ABOUT MARTIAL law and coup attempts against President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration amounts to bullsh-t, according to former President Fidel Ramos.

"This is direct to the point," Ramos declared in a press conference Monday night. "Continuing media reports, coffee shop speculations, political intrigues and texted rumors to the effect that martial law will soon be enforced by the government or that, on the other side, [there will be] a coup attempt by anti-Arroyo forces, are all BS—and I don't mean bachelor of science. They are just that—cow manure."

Ramos arrived in Manila at 6:45 p.m. Monday on board Lufthansa Airlines from a series of meetings in the European Union.

He is scheduled to leave again today for China.

Ramos said that from his latest trip, he had gathered that even the international community was experiencing "general dismay" over the political situation in the Philippines.

"Such talk about martial law or police-military oppression, or

FVR MINCES/ A22

Gonzales links Venable to Aragoncillo case

By Armand N. Nocum

THE LOBBY FIRM CONTRACTED by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales to seek American funding for President Macapagal-Arroyo's plans to amend the Constitution was also tasked with establishing "the extent of the destabilization (moves by the opposition) in the United States against the Arroyo administration," Gonzales' lawyer said yesterday.

Antonio Bautista offered up this information to the Supreme Court as he argued for the release of his client from Senate custody.

The senators had cited Gonzales for contempt and ordered him detained after he evaded questions during a Sept. 21 committee hearing on the Venable contract. Because his blood pressure had shot up, Gonzales has since then been confined at the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City.

GONZALES/ A4

OUT OF CONFINEMENT. National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales is helped with his robe as he arrives at the Supreme Court for a hearing on the habeas corpus case his family filed. REM ZAMORA

Literature gives voice to dissent, oppressed, says RM laureate

By DJ Yap

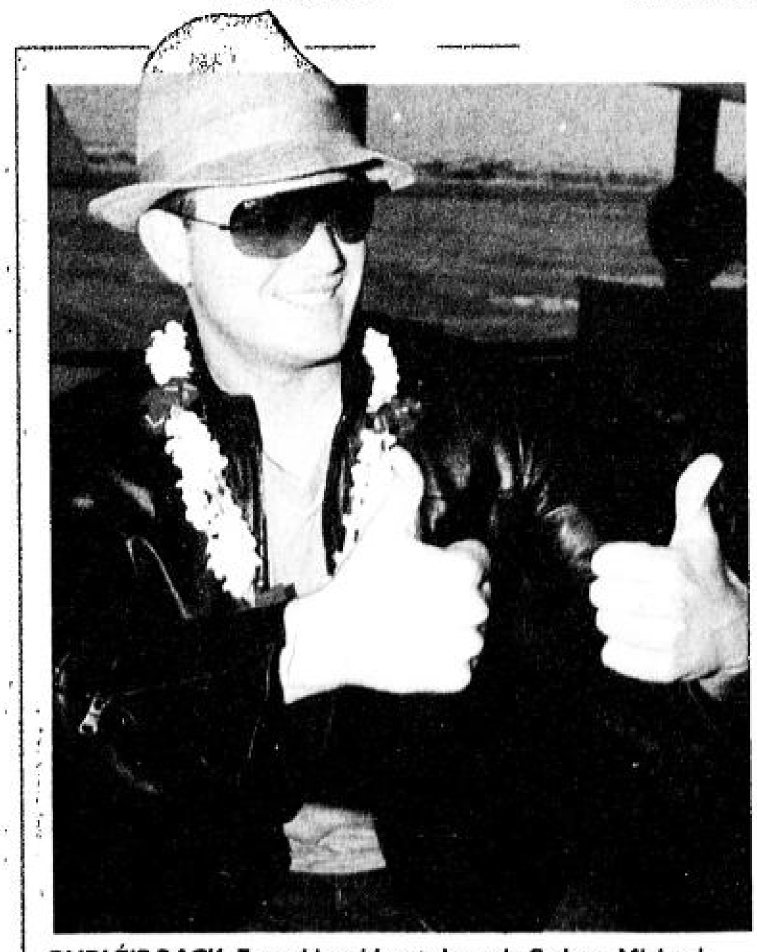
MEN AND WOMEN OF LETTERS have peopled Philippine revolutions and revolts. But in the age of text messaging and e-mail, is literature still a relevant form of political dissent?

For Bienvenido Lumbera, professor emeritus at the University of the Philippines and 1993 Ramon Magsaysay awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts, the role of literature in giving a voice to the small, the weak and the oppressed is as strong as ever.

"Literature gives a voice to those that have been silenced," Lumbera said yesterday in Filipino at a press conference called by the National Coalition for the Protection of Workers' Rights and the militant labor alliance Kilusang Mayo Uno.

The labor groups condemned what they called "state terrorism and fascism" marked by the successive killings of trade union

LITERATURE/ A4



BUBLÉ'S BACK. From his sold-out shows in Sydney, Michael Bublé, the Canadian crooner, who's a local favorite, arrives in Manila on Tuesday for a one-night concert at the Araneta Coliseum today, Oct. 12. *(Story on Page A23.)* ROGER MARGALLO

'GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY?'

Squatters big NorthRail problem

By Clarissa S. Batino and Gerry Lirio

(First of 3 parts)

An I-TEAM *Report*
Project Editor
Fernando del Mundo

AS ECONOMIC PLANNING Secretary, Dante Canlas saw as early as December 2002 that the relocation of squatters was going to be one of the major obstacles to the ambitious NorthRail project that the new administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo had set as the centerpiece of her program for national progress in 2001.

Canlas lost his job.

Recently, the Senate began a long-delayed hearing on the NorthRail project that centered on alleged anomalies in the contract with China but no mention was made of the eviction of the affected population roughly comprising twice that of San Juan in Metro Manila.

In February, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile had called for the inquiry over the alleged onerous conditions in the contract, describing it "a real railroad train robbery."

Canlas was accused of foot-dragging in the project to build

SQUATTERS/ A21

SC petitioned to stop railway project

By Armand N. Nocum and Cynthia D. Balana

REPRESENTATIVES OF SQUATTER groups facing eviction petitioned the Supreme Court yesterday to stop the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo from implementing the NorthRail project—a 32.2-km commuter train system that will link Caloocan City and Malolos, Bulacan.

Joining the groups in their petition was the University of the Philippines Law Center, which conducted a study on the project following the signing of a $503-million contract between North Luzon Railways Corp. (NorthRail) and China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. (Group) (CNMEG) in 2003. *(See Special Report on this page, above)*

In a 28-page petition, the complainants asked the high court to issue a temporary restraining order and declare the NorthRail-CNMEG contract null and void for being unconstitutional.

It cited the absence of a public bidding, proper certification of available funding and proof of CNMEG's license to act as a contractor.

The petition said that the loan agreement did not appear to have the prior concurrence of the Monetary Board. It pointed out that the Government Procurement Reform Act requires that "all procurement shall be done through competitive bidding" and that the contract did not fall under the exemptions.

Named respondents were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Budget Secretary Romulo

SC PETITIONED/ A21

Second FRONT PAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/10/12/05

Army says info drive no loyalty check

THE PHILIPPINE ARMY IS CHECKING ON ITS troops to find out, among other things, if they still trust the commander in chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo, and remain loyal to the chain of command, two top Army officers said yesterday.

Although they denied it was a "loyalty check," Army chief of staff Maj. Gen. Alexander Yano and Brig. Gen Melchor Dilodilo, chief of the Army's resource management office, confirmed in telephone interviews with the INQUIRER that they had been going around the country to conduct an information campaign among officers and enlisted men.

Dilodilo, who supervised the information drive in the Visayas, said 750 enlisted men and officers attended seminars from Oct. 5 to 8 where the topics taken up included the Army's thrusts and the soldiers' concerns such as health services, the grievance system, housing and clothing allowances.

At the end, said Dilodilo, two questions were posed to the soldiers: Do you believe the Armed Forces is apolitical? Do you have trust and confidence in the chain of command?

These questions were also included in written questionnaires that were handed out to the soldiers, Dilodilo said, adding that 20 of the 750 respondents, or 2.6 percent, answered they did not believe the Armed Forces of the Philippines was apolitical. Five respondents, or less than one percent, were bold enough to declare that they did not trust in the chain of command.

"Generally, we believe that we're apolitical and we have trust and confidence in the chain of command," Dilodilo said.

Yano, who headed the information campaign in Mindanao, said no such questions were posed to the soldiers there. Instead, "We reminded them about the mandate of the Armed Forces under the Constitution... that we should be apolitical."

Yano said the seminars were continuing but he could not say how many of the Army's 75,000 troops had been reached already.

"This is just an information drive. We are just getting inputs from our troops," Yano said.

Dilodilo said the information drive had been planned even before Marine Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, now retired, and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan testified at a Senate investigation into alleged election irregularities on Sept. 28.

Gudani and Balutan were promptly sacked and ordered court-martialed for defying the President's order not to testify, fueling more reports of military unrest which began after military officials were implicated in the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal. *Dona Pazzibugan*

Debate on Charter change fails to take off in Congress

By Michael Lim Ubac

WITH NOT ENOUGH WARM BODIES on the floor, the "great debate" on Charter change failed to start in the House of Representatives last night.

The chamber adjourned at 6:41 p.m. although Rep. Constantino Jaraula, chair of the committee on constitutional amendments and Speaker Jose de Venecia's pointman in the proposed shift to a parliamentary-federal type of government, was prepared to deliver the long-delayed sponsorship speech on Committee Report No. 1065.

The report contained House concurrent resolution No. 413 calling on the Senate and the House of Representatives to merge and become a Constituent Assembly and introduce amendments to the Constitution.

Among the salient points of the proposed amendments to the Constitution approved by the committee last Sept. 28 was to reduce the president to a "symbolic head of state."

Under a parliamentary government, all executive powers will be exercised by the Prime Minister who will also be the commander in chief.

Had Jaraula sponsored the report on the floor, the Cha-cha express espoused by De Venecia could have gone full steam ahead.

The chamber deferred floor debates on Cha-cha for one more day to thresh out differences with President Macapagal-Arroyo's party, The Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino which, on Thursday, had withdrawn support from Cha-cha.

According to congressional sources, Lakas-CMD and Kampi officials were, at press time, still "negotiating" to appease Kampi with allocations for slots in the Commission on Appointments.

Kampi president Rep. Ronaldo Puno had threatened yesterday to withdraw the signatures of three of its members – Representatives Luis Villafuerte, Felix Alfelor and Augusto Baculio – from the committee report, so that it will be "re-committed" to the committee on constitutional amendments.

Of the 45 committee members, only 23 signed the report.

Kampi spokesperson Rep. Anthony Miranda of Isabela said Kampi should be allowed because "only fools are not allowed to change their minds."

But Jaraula said "no way."

"For purposes of validity of the committee report, it can't be nullified by reason of the withdrawal of signatures. But they can vote against the report in plenary session," said Jaraula.

To support Cha-cha, the 32-member Kampi set three conditions: Defer floor debates for two months (wait for recommendations of the Consultative Commission which will finish its task on Dec. 15); resolve the issue of the Senate's participation in the constitutional commission, and provide a transitory provision requiring all Con-Ass delegates not to run in the next parliamentary elections.

Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday said that "most Senate members were not against initiatives" to amend the charter.

"There is divergence of opinion in the Senate on the issue of Charter change. But a majority of us agree that the present Constitution can stand some improvement. Most of the senators prefer a constitutional convention while the House of Representatives prefers a constituent assembly," he said.

Fr. Reyes decries harassment

ACTIVIST PRIEST FR. ROBERT REYES HAS ACcused the military of attempting to intimidate the small group of mostly middle-class anti-Arroyo protesters that regularly gathers at the foot of the People Power Monument on Edsa.

Reyes yesterday claimed that about 20 fully armed soldiers dropped by their "tent of hope" at the monument on Monday night to question two of the group's members.

"This is very disturbing, now even the military is getting involved," Reyes said in a phone interview.

"Is this part of the CPR (calibrated preemptive response policy)?" he asked, referring to the government's new "no permit, no rally" policy against protesters.

Reyes said the group, which will celebrate on Oct. 17 its 100th day of prayer to solve the political crisis, mostly prays and fasts at the monument.

He said it was a form of protest that did not inconvenience the public so that even Director Vidal Querol, the Metro Manila Police chief, had instructed his men to keep their distance.

He said it was usually the police that tried to intimidate them, by letting the group feel their "strong presence."

Reyes said Romeo Senyar and Diego Mortel were keeping watch over the group's tent and chairs at the foot of the monument on Monday when the soldiers came.

"Around 9 p.m., a group of soldiers arrived. Four of them came forward to ask us what we were doing there," Senyar said in a phone interview.

"We told them we were guarding the tent and the chairs," he said.

The soldiers left after 10 minutes but their visit unnerved the watchers.

"They carried long firearms. It was dark because the lights had not been switched on. We were really scared," Senyar said.

Reyes appealed to the authorities to leave the group alone as its presence on Edsa has been "very quiet." *Luige A. del Puerto*

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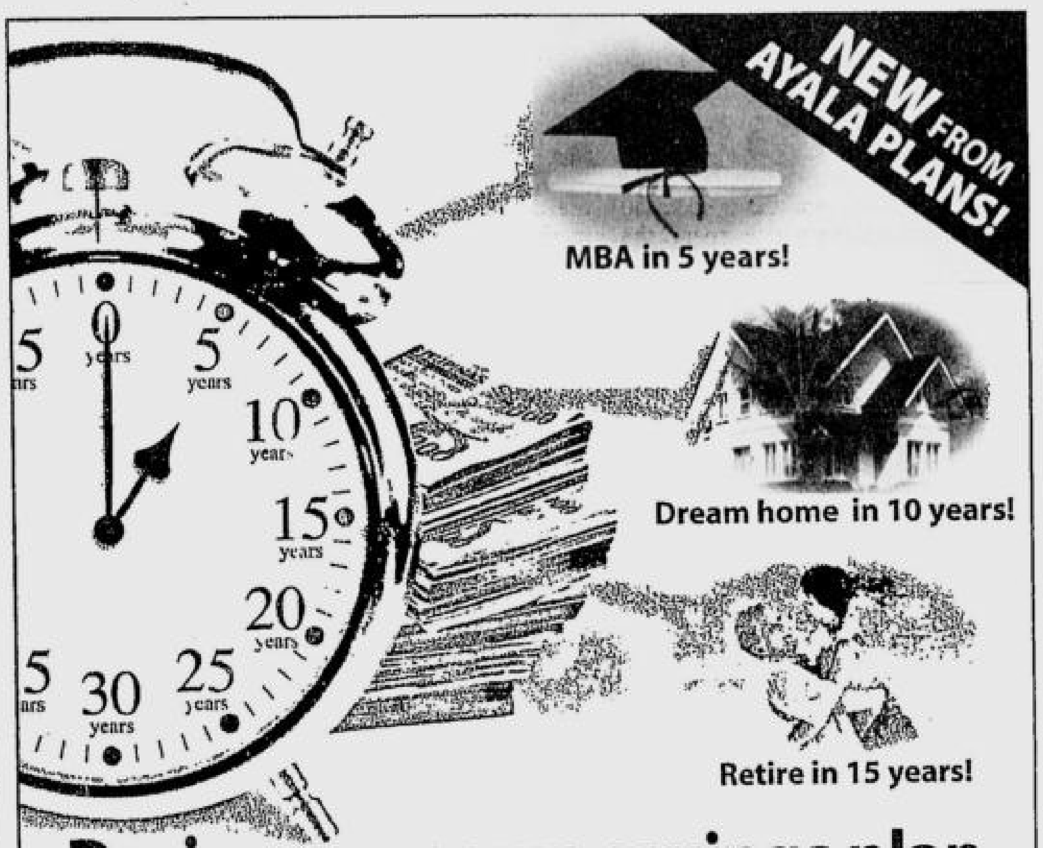

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4.8-quake rocks Catanduanes; DPWH chief orders inspections

A MINOR EARTHQUAKE MEASURING 4.8 in magnitude shook the island province of Catanduanes Monday but there were no reports of damage or injuries.

At the same time, as a result of the devastating earthquake that leveled large areas of Pakistan, India and Kashmir, Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday instructed Department of Public Works and Highways personnel to inspect the country's roads and bridges.

Ebdane said he had also directed city and municipal building officials to inspect government buildings and see if they needed repairs.

A notice published on the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology web site said yesterday's quake occurred at 7:08 p.m. about 106 kilometers east of Catanduanes' capital, Virac, in the Philippine Sea.

Local media reports said there were no signs of damage or reports of injuries. Minor aftershocks were expected in the area, according to the seismology institute, which reported the quake's strength at 4.8 on the Mercalli scale.

An earlier report from the Hong Kong Observatory put the quake at 5.6 on the Richter scale.

Catanduanes is about 250 kilometers southeast of Manila.

Ebdane noted the high number of deaths from the South Asia earthquake, which it is believed would top 40,000, was mainly due to people being trapped under collapsed buildings.

"An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," he said in a statement. "We can prevent this by assuring the stability of all major infrastructure facilities in the country." *Leila B. Salaverria; AFP*

NBI: US worried FBI files may have gone to Reds

By Margaux C. Ortiz
and Norman Bordadora

THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED classified documents allegedly stolen by Leandro Aragoncillo and Michael Ray Aquino may have ended up in the hands of communists, according to an official of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Ricardo Diaz, chief of the NBI's Interpol division, said at a recent meeting US officials noted that known leftists were at the forefront of so-called destabilization efforts and mass actions in the country.

"They said there was a possibility that the classified government information from the White House and FBI [the Federal Bureau of Investigation] are now in the hands of the local communists like the New People's Army," Diaz told reporters yesterday.

Diaz said that as far as the US government was concerned, the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, was on top of the list of terrorist organizations in the Philippines.

The Interpol chief also said that no administration officials benefited from the Aragoncillo-Aquino espionage activities "as being alleged by some quarters."

"This was made clear by the [US] Attorney General in his press conference during the same day that Aragoncillo and Aquino were arrested," Diaz said.

It was also learned at the meeting with US officials that the leaked documents were "selectively chosen" by the beneficiaries in the Philippines.

"It appears that only information unfavorable to the present administration were used while information that was unflattering to the beneficiaries were kept [from the public]," Diaz said.

He said US authorities would likely invoke the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to gather evidence in the Philippines in the Aragoncillo-Aquino case.

Aragoncillo, a Filipino-American working as an FBI analyst, and Aquino, a fugitive Filipino police colonel, were arrested in the US last month and accused of conspiring to steal classified US government documents which they allegedly passed on to Filipino politicians.

Malacañang yesterday dismissed rumors that some Cabinet officials may have been recipients of the information stolen by Agoncillo from the White House.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang saw no need to ask any Cabinet official, including Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, who has admitted to having met Aragoncillo when he visited jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, about the matter.

Defensor yesterday said Estrada showed him some of the latter's copies of the US assessment reports on the Philippines when he visited the disgraced leader in late 2004.

He said Estrada had told him the documents came from the US Central Intelligence Agency. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Pamatong files treason raps vs GMA

UNMINDFUL OF THE PRESIDENT'S immunity from lawsuits, lawyer Elly Pamatong hied himself off yesterday to the Office of the Ombudsman to file treason charges against President Macapagal-Arroyo for allegedly rigging last year's presidential election.

In a 14-page complaint, Pamatong said Ms Arroyo's public apology at the height of the "Hello Garci" scandal was made "noncontritely and unremorsefully" and "did not legitimize her political status as an impostor and usurper of the Office of the President," which he said was won by the late Fernando Poe Jr.

By her apology, Ms Arroyo "knowingly and willfully abandoned the presumption of innocence and pleaded that she was guilty of the worst capital offense involving electoral fraud," read the complaint, which a filing clerk formally accepted after Pamatong took an oath and signed it.

Pamatong, who was disqualified by the Comelec as a nuisance candidate in the same election, called Ms Arroyo "an evil woman who has committed heinous crimes that deserve no less than summary execution."

The complaint also accused Ms Arroyo of plunder, corruption, usurpation of authority, obstruction of justice and "constructive imposition of martial law," among other charges.

Pamatong himself is facing charges of malicious mischief filed by police after he admitted strewing metal spikes on major streets in Metro Manila in June 2004. *Nelson F. Flores*

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Literature gives voice to dissent, oppressed, says RM laureate

From page A1

leaders and workers.

Then as now, writers and artists have emerged as a force every time a ruling power becomes an instrument of abuse, Lumbera said.

The poet, playwright and essayist is a member of Bukluran Para Sa Katotohanan, a movement seeking the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo over allegations of election fraud.

He observed that other writers and artists were active in the anti-Arroyo movement, particularly those belonging to the Concerned Artists of the Philippines.

According to Lumbera, poems, short stories, essays and other literary forms "continue to be spread from one to the other [and] remain alive—and people will turn to them again and again in the coming days."

He read a poem in Filipino dedicated to "workers and union leaders who have been killed by the military or police under Ms Arroyo's government."

He said he had revised the poem twice, and read it publicly at two other forums for victims of human rights abuses.

It speaks of demolished houses, busted workers' unions, the chains of oppression, and of muzzled protests and aspirations given voice.

Part of it reads: *"Ang kubo at kubakob na inyong giniba/ Katiting na lupang inyo pang sinuba/ Unyong winasak, welgang pininsala/ Mga krimen itong kawing ng tanikala/ Bumigkis sa aming mga adhika/ Protestang pinipi ngayo'y nagkadila."*

Lumbera has written two other contemporary political poems: "Agunyas sa Hacienda Luisita" and "Hello, Garci."

Literature need not lose its power in the age of technology, said the 73-year-old Lumbera.

For instance, the Internet is a very effective medium in spreading words of dissent not just in the Philippines but anywhere in the world, he said.

He added that works written in Filipino could be translated to any number of languages.

He himself is no stranger to technology: He regularly corresponds and sends his written works through e-mail.

Lumbera went underground when Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial law in 1972. He was arrested in January 1974 and detained until December of that year.

Gonzales links Venable ...

From page A1

Gonzales appeared at the Supreme Court yesterday.

Bautista said certain elements in the opposition were lobbying the US Congress to "goad" Washington into withdrawing support from the Arroyo administration.

Would alert opposition

He said the opposition wanted to take advantage of the rift between the Philippines and the United States as a result of Ms Arroyo's decision to recall the Philippine military contingent from Iraq to save Filipino worker Angelo de la Cruz from execution by Iraqi insurgents.

"This was what (Gonzales) sought to track down through the US lobby firm (Venable LLP)," Bautista said.

He said the firm was somehow linked to the "brouhaha" over the theft of sensitive US government documents by Leandro Aragoncillo, a Filipino-American analyst of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Aragoncillo and Michael Ray Aquino, a former officer of the Philippine National Police, were arrested last month at their residences in the United States for allegedly passing on to opposition leaders in the Philippines stolen US documents purportedly damaging to Ms Arroyo.

Bautista said naming the person who referred Gonzales to Venable and those who paid for the lobby firm's services at the Senate inquiry into the Venable contract "may affect national security."

The lawyer said naming these people at the Sept. 21 hearing of the Senate would have alerted the opposition, especially Sen. Panfilo Lacson, that Venable was linked to the Aragoncillo case.

Lacson is one of opposition leaders who claimed that he received information from Aquino.

Exclusive to GMA

Bautista said the national security implications and the fact that Gonzales had discussed the Venable issue "exclusively" with the President were among the reasons Gonzales could not name the people who funded the lobby deal.

This admission prompted Sen. Joker Arroyo, who argued on behalf of the Senate blue ribbon committee, to conclude that contrary to the claims of Gonzales, the President had known about the contract from the beginning.

Arroyo told the Supreme Court that Bautista's admission that the President knew about the contract had changed the "picture."

"The President knew about the contract ... (Gonzales) now says, 'Yes, we discussed it.' Now, the picture is entirely different," the senator said.

With the admission, the President has been formally dragged into the issue, according to Arroyo.

Bautista said Gonzales could not be faulted for not revealing the people and donors behind the lobby deal because he was still in the dark about their identities during the Senate hearing.

"He knows who knows ... He does not know who funded...," Bautista said in reply to a question from Associate Justice Reynato Puno.

Executive privilege

But now that Gonzales knew the identities of the financiers, Bautista said the national security adviser was willing to name them in an executive session.

During the oral arguments, several justices suggested that Gonzales better reveal what he knew about the Venable deal to secure his freedom, but Bautista said this would affect the country's security.

"The information here can harm our relations with the US," he said, adding that the deal with Venable involved "counter-destabilization moves."

Besides, Bautista said the President "refused" to free him from a conversation that occurred "exclusively" between the two of them.

"He cannot reveal it without breaking the confidence of the President," Bautista said as he admitted that Gonzales had consulted the President before entering into the contract with Venable.

For this, he said Gonzales should be accorded his right to "executive privilege."

Executive privilege is the practice of the President or presidential assistants of refusing to answer questions posed in congressional hearings by claiming separation of powers.

Senator Arroyo earlier said that the Senate hearing could not be covered by executive privilege because, as Gonzales had testified, Ms Arroyo was not privy to the deal.

Waived

But other justices questioned Gonzales because it was impossible for him not to know the people behind the deal as he was the national security adviser.

For his part, Associate Justice Antonio Carpio noted that the President had "waived" executive privilege by allowing Gonzales to go to the Senate hearing.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide said the Senate could have cited Gonzales in contempt because the "Senate knew that he knew."

Bautista claimed that he had a letter from Venable showing that the contract with Gonzales had been rescinded, but Davide noted that this would not cure its supposed "infirmities."

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 9 ISSUE, the caption of a front-page photo—"WOW PHILIPPINES goes to London"—misspelled the name of the well-known department store in London. The correct name is Harrods—not Harrod's.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 10 ISSUE, the caption of a front-page photo—"SORROW KNOWS NO AGE"—misstated that Kashmir is a Himalayan kingdom. Kashmir is a region—not a kingdom—in the Himalayas.

* * *

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Luz to take citizenship question to appeals court

HE WANTS THE OPINION OF THE COURTS.

National Citizen's Movement for Free Elections secretary general Guillermo "Bill" Luz said he would take to the Court of Appeals the Commission on Elections' (Comelec) ruling on his citizenship.

The Comelec earlier ruled that Luz was a Canadian citizen and could not vote or participate in the country's electoral process.

"[I]t is clear that my lawyers will be bringing the matter to the CA where I intend to show that I am Filipino through and through," Luz said in a statement.

Luz, who is also executive director of the Makati Business Club, said he was still "not in a position" to comment on the Comelec decision because he had not received his copy.

"I am surprised to learn from the media that Comelec, with all its workload, had time to rule on the insignificant issue of my personal involvement in the 2004 elections," he said.

In July, Luz led MBC officers in withdrawing their support from President Macapagal-Arroyo and asking her to step down amid the "Hello Garci" scandal.

On Oct. 7, Comelec commissioners unanimously declared that Luz remained a naturalized Canadian citizen when he returned to the country in 1978 to stay for good. They said the businessman, born in the Philippines to Filipino parents who took him to Canada when he was still a minor, failed to show proof that he had reacquired his Filipino citizenship.

The declaration came after opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. questioned the nationality of Luz. Pimentel alleged that since Luz was not a Filipino citizen, he should be charged with violating provisions of the Omnibus Election Code.

Luz's younger brother, Department of Education (DepEd) Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz came to his defense, saying it was up to the courts and not the Comelec to rule on the nationality of anyone.

"I don't understand why the Comelec is suddenly announcing that my brother is not a Filipino citizen. That is for the courts to determine," the younger Luz said in an interview, adding that the Comelec's main mandate is to count the votes in an election.

Just last month, the DepEd undersecretary was reportedly dismissed by Malacañang for refusing to honor three postdated checks issued to anti-impeachment Rep. Antonio M. Diaz for a scholarship program. He is still with DepEd.

The younger Luz said that both their parents were Filipino and all their nine children were born in the Philippines and travel with Philippine passports.

"I'm no lawyer but I know that if you're born in the Philippines and both of your parents are Filipinos then your nationality is Filipino," he said. *Jerome Aning, Alcuin Papa and Leila B. Salaverria*

Legarda scores 'bling bling' VP's P131-M budget

LOREN LEGARDA, THE EX-SENATOR AND defeated vice presidential candidate, yesterday accused Vice President Noli de Castro of wasting the people's money through extravagance, describing him as a "bling bling" Vice President who was too preoccupied with ceremonial functions.

According to the latest edition of the Oxford English Dictionary, "bling bling" is slang for elaborate jewelry and clothing and the appreciation of it. It is used to refer to all forms of showy style.

Legarda criticized De Castro's proposed budget for his office in 2006, saying the Vice President was seeking from Congress "more money to burn" while millions of Filipinos were going hungry.

She asked Congress to consider slashing the budget of De Castro's office, saying he had not done anything significant for the people.

"Since Noli has accomplished nothing, he doesn't deserve to be allotted millions just so he can preen like a delusional rock star," she said.

She said De Castro's proposed budget of P131 million in 2006 was "bloated" and insensitive in face of the fiscal crisis that the country is going through.

She said the P50-million increase that De Castro was seeking for "miscellaneous expenses" was unjustified.

She noted that De Castro was asking for P2.4 million for the purchase of an "official vehicle" for his use, and another P5 million as transportation money for next year.

"[If you divide] P5 million by 365 days, that means Noli will have a transportation allowance of P13,698 for each and every day of 2006, counting weekends and holidays. That is a waste of taxpayers' money, considering that he is seen by many as a nonperforming official," Legarda said.

Legislators earlier questioned De Castro's proposal to increase his office's budget for "ceremonial functions and technical services" from P45.5 million to P93.2 million.

They have vowed to scrutinize every centavo of De Castro's proposed budget, including the P6 million he wants for 2006 for "confidential and intelligence expenses." *Cynthia D. Balana*

Antigraft czar: Say 'yes' to corruption

By Daxim L. Lucas

INSTEAD OF BLURTING OUT AN OUTright "no," government officials and employees should say "yes" to people who attempt to bribe them in exchange for favors, the man credited with cleaning up the once notoriously corrupt Hong Kong bureaucracy said yesterday.

"If they attempt to bribe you, ask them to come back while you clear it with your boss," Tony Kwok, former chief of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption, told members of the Asia Society Philippines Foundation in Makati City.

Doing so, he added, would allow higher officials to alert authorities like the Ombudsman to conduct an entrapment operation and catch the bribe-giver red-handed.

"Don't just say 'no' because nothing will happen," said Kwok, consultant to a government anticorruption project funded by the European Union.

Kwok had headed Hong Kong's ICAC until 2003, presiding over the former British colony's transformation from one of the most corrupt societies in Asia to one of the world's cleanest at present.

Anticorruption agency

Kwok called for strengthening the Office of the Ombudsman, saying that as the government's primary anticorruption agency it needed more power and resources to be effective in its constitutionally mandated mission.

Kwok noted that while working closely with outgoing Ombudsman Simeon V. Marcelo, who was the first to invite him to serve as a consultant to the Arroyo administration, he found the agency had substantial weaknesses.

"For example, the Ombudsman has no power of arrest," Kwok said. "If he sees a government official in the act of being bribed, he cannot do anything about it. He has to first call the police. This is ridiculous."

Among the powers he said the Ombudsman should be given is the authority to pry open bank accounts of state officials suspected of graft and corruption.

"As the head of ICAC, I could authorize bank accounts to be examined," he said, lamenting the country's rigid bank secrecy laws that prevent scrutiny of suspects' assets.

Checking of asset trail

"For an effective [anticorruption] campaign, you should be able to check the asset trail," he said.

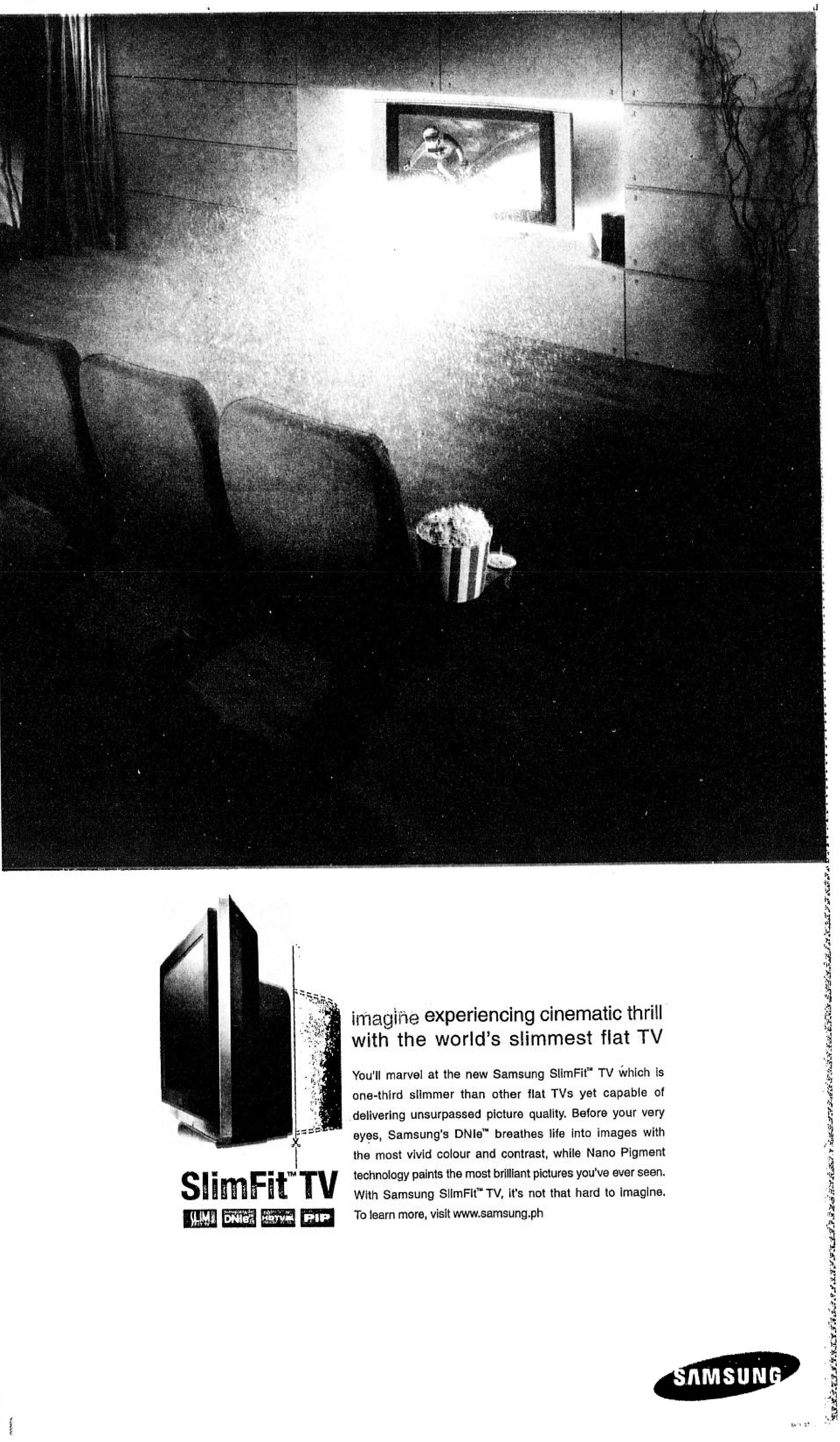
Kwok also pointed out that the Ombudsman's office started with only 15 investigators tasked with policing a 1.5-million strong state bureaucracy. Hong Kong, on the other hand, had 900 investigators poring over the activities of a lean government work force.

"I understand that the number [of investigators at the Ombudsman] is now up to 80," he said. "This could go up to 200 if the bill [amending the Ombudsman's charter] is passed."

Marcelo's resignation lamented

Meanwhile, a coalition of anticorruption advocacy groups has lamented Marcelo's resignation, describing it as a "big loss."

"It is sad for us to see good and credible public servants like him leave government at this crucial time," the Coalition Against Corruption said in a statement. "His resignation will affect the administration's ability to pursue its anticorruption reform agenda."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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

It's race against time for quake rescuers

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN-CONTROLLED KASHMIR—Rescue teams raced to find survivors in the rubble and comfort the suffering Monday as Pakistan said the death toll from the weekend earthquake could hit 40,000.

Anger and looting erupted over the speed of the massive relief effort as hundreds of thousands of people, many left hungry and homeless by the quake's destruction, awaited help from rescuers battling difficult conditions.

More than 48 hours after the 7.6-magnitude quake wiped away entire villages and buried victims under piles of debris, the full scope of the devastation—and the enormous cost in human lives—began to emerge.

"It is a whole generation that has been lost in the worst affected areas," Pakistani Army spokesperson Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan told AFP.

A senior official said the quake had killed between 30,000 and 40,000 people in the mountains of northeast Pakistan, and injured another 60,000.

The quake centered its fury in northern Pakistan and Pakistani-held Kashmir, a mountainous region where untold numbers of children were entombed when schools and houses collapsed under the worst quake to hit Pakistan in decades.

The huge international rescue effort that has swept into Pakistan has been severely hampered by the treacherous terrain and huge quake-triggered landslides that wiped out many roads, even though some reopened Monday.

"We are not mourning our dead today. We are mourning our ties with the government," said magistrate Raja Mohammad Irshad, in the remote town of Bagh. He lost a sister-in-law, three nephews and two cousins.

"We are asking whether they think we are human beings or animals, or non-living things," he said.

In Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-held Kashmir, people ransacked military trucks that had just arrived and took food, tents, blankets and medicines, an AFP photographer at the scene said.

One group broke into a petrol station to get fuel to burn wood for cooking and warmth, while others snatched government cars and jeeps.

"People are starving. They have lost all their family members, their belongings," local resident Akram Shah told AFP. "Everything is gone, people are buried alive. Nobody is helping us to find them."

An AFP reporter who flew over Pakistani-held Kashmir in a military helicopter described scenes of utter devastation. The ground was littered with the ruins of demolished houses.

In open fields, hundreds of people waited for help beside the dead and wounded.

Residents in some places dug with their bare hands to find their loved ones, while rescue teams with sniffer dogs and specialist equipment hunted for survivors and set up field hospitals to cope with the injured.

Offers of aid continued to pour in from around the world. The United States said it had provided $50 million, the World Bank offered $20 million and the Asian Development Bank pledged $10 million. The energy-rich Gulf states of Kuwait and United Arab Emirates offered $200 million to countries struck by the earthquake.

Survivors were facing an array of problems—freezing overnight temperatures, rain, landslides, scarce food, little shelter, no communications networks and almost non-existent healthcare. *AFP*

Iraqi woman, son rescued after 60 hours

ISLAMABAD—AN IRAQI WOMAN and her son were freed in a "miraculous" rescue after they were trapped for more than 60 hours in the rubble of a quake-hit apartment block in the Pakistani capital, a government official said Tuesday.

Rescuers heard the woman's faint cries and found her cradling her 2-year-old child in a small air pocket in the wreckage of the building around 10 p.m. Monday (1700 GMT), junior Interior Minister Shehzad Waseem said.

Cheers erupted when Pakistani soldiers and a British rescue team using sniffer dogs finally dug the pair out of the collapsed 10-story Margalla Towers complex around two hours later, he said.

"We have recovered an Iraqi woman and her 2-year-old son alive from the debris of the building. It's miraculous. It has boosted our morale," Waseem told AFP.

"They could hear the woman's voice. It was very quiet and weak but she was speaking in Arabic so they couldn't understand. But they widened the hole and pulled," said Mushtaq Ahmed, a policeman at the scene.

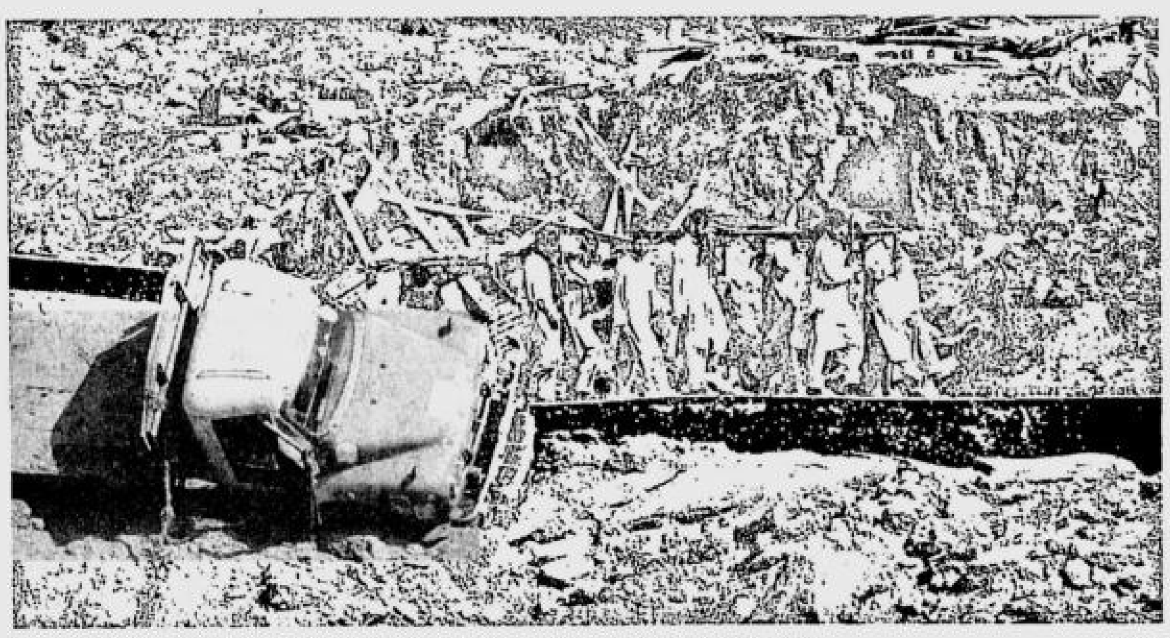
The boy had no physical injuries but was being kept under observation in an intensive care unit at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, said doctor Azkar Beg.

The boy's survival was bittersweet for the mother, who wept at news that her husband had died, Beg said.

The woman, 32, was being operated on for a broken leg, he said.

Another 40 to 50 people were still trapped beneath the mammoth pile of smashed concrete and twisted metal although some of those are believed to have died, Waseem and police officials said.

Five people have now been brought out alive from the destroyed building, an upscale development where many foreign workers lived, and 30 people are confirmed dead. *AFP*



RESIDENTS move their injured relatives to safer place in Balakot Oct. 10. REUTERS

Death toll from Guatemala mudslides could hit 2,000

GUATEMALA CITY—THE DEATH toll from devastating mudslides in Guatemala could reach 2,000 as rescuers suspended their search Monday for hundreds of people buried in a muddy tomb.

President Oscar Berger declared three days of mourning for the 652 people confirmed dead in Guatemala since Tropical Storm Stan unleashed unrelenting rains last week that triggered floods and avalanches of mud.

Up to 1,400 people are missing in the communities of Panabaj and Tzanchaj in a lake region 180 km west of Guatemala City.

Guatemalan and Spanish firefighters had little hope of finding survivors as they searched with sniffer dogs five days after the mudslide.

"This is a temporary suspension, because you can't work in this terrain," said firefighters' spokesperson Mario Cruz. "We are waiting for the government's decision to resume work or declare it a cemetery," which would end the search.

Cruz said earlier that only 77 had been found so far in Panabaj, including just one in the last three days.

The local mayor has asked the central government to declare the devastated area a mass grave.

"If it had been an earthquake, you could hope to find survivors, but here in the mud, I don't think so," said a Spanish firefighter. "It could take a month for it to dry up." Hundreds of villagers in the Mayan region had flocked to the mudslide since Wednesday to try to dig out their friends, relatives and neighbors.

Geronimo Mendoza, a farmer wearing a straw hat, had carried a shovel on his shoulder as he joined the search effort Monday.

"I had a lot of friends in these homes," said Mendoza, 63. "I want to find their remains to give then a dignified burial." West of Panabaj and Tzanchaj, officials estimate that hundreds have also disappeared or died.

Several towns were "destroyed" and another 14 were flooded near the Pacific coast, said Santo Domingo Mayor Mario Perez.

Stan slammed the Mexican state of Veracruz Tuesday as a hurricane before being downgraded to a tropical storm.

At least 72 people were killed in El Salvador, 28 in Mexico and 11 in Nicaragua.

The United Nations said it was launching a $22-million-dollar flash appeal to assist victims in Guatemala. *AFP*

Vaccines, drugs won't control bird flu, experts say

WASHINGTON—MANY GOVERNMENTS around the world are stockpiling antiviral drugs and some companies are trying to speed up vaccine production but these measure give a false sense of security and will do little to counter a flu pandemic, an expert cautioned on Monday.

Michael Osterholm, an infectious disease expert who has been studying the risk of pandemic flu for decades and is a US government adviser, said governments should be preparing to cope with the pandemic instead of relying entirely on the hope of using vaccines and drugs to control it.

If the H5N1 avian flu begins to easily infect humans, it will move too quickly for drugs and vaccines to be of much use, Osterholm said.

"It doesn't matter if we have a vaccine now or not. We can't make it," Osterholm said in a telephone interview.

The H5N1 bird flu virus has killed at least 65 people in four Asian nations since late 2003, and has killed or forced the destruction of tens of millions of poultry.

Experts say it is mutating steadily and fear it will eventually acquire the changes it needs to spread easily from person to person.

If it does, it will sweep around the world in months or even weeks and could kill millions of people—as many as 150 million, according to the most dire forecast by the World Health Organization.

When avian flu infects people it looks like any other flu with respiratory symptoms, fever and other common effects but it will kill many more than the 500,0000 people who die of ordinary flu each year around the world.

People have known about the risk of an influenza pandemic for a very long time, said Osterholm, an infectious disease specialist at the University of Minnesota who advises the federal government on such issues.

"We have had a pandemic flu plan as a planning process since 1976," said Osterholm. "Nobody has completed it. It been one of the most long-standing incompleted processes in Washington. Nobody wants to believe that modern medical science can't handle something." *Reuters*

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Israeli-Palestinian summit postponed until end of October

RAMALLAH, WEST Bank—A summit between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas expected this week has been postponed until the end of October, officials on both sides said Monday.

Sharon and Abbas had been expected to hold their third meeting of the year on Tuesday but their senior aides were unable to reach agreement on the summit agenda.

"The meeting has been postponed until the end of the month as there have been insufficient preparations," Palestinian Authority spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeina told AFP.

A statement issued by Sharon's office confirmed that it was now hoped that a summit would take place after Abbas returns from a summit with US President George W. Bush on Oct. 20.

In the interim, joint committees would try to hammer out an agreement on issues such as the release of Palestinian prisoners, the transfer of security control in parts of the West Bank and the fate of militants wanted by Israel. "It was agreed that after (Abbas) returns from Washington, the two leaders would meet in order to evaluate the committees progress," the statement said.

Sharon's office added that chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat and the Israeli leader's top advisor Dov Weisglass had agreed during their talks to try to ensure that Abbas and Sharon meet regularly. *AFP*

Britain seeks ban of 15 terror groups

LONDON—THE British government on Monday published a list of 15 Islamist groups it wants parliament to ban as part of an antiterror crackdown following the deadly July bombings in London.

Among the groups named were those which allegedly targeted US-led coalition troops in Iraq or westerners in Somalia as well as anti-Libyan and anti-Moroccan groups which were also deemed to be fighting a global holy war.

Home Secretary Charles Clarke asked lawmakers returning to parliament from their 80-day summer recess to "proscribe" such groups under existing laws, ahead of publishing the government's new antiterrorism bill on Wednesday.

The new bill contains proposals to extend the period of detention without charge of suspected terrorists from two weeks to 90 days.

"Recent events in London and elsewhere in the world have shown all too clearly that the threat posed by global terrorism has not gone away," Clarke told the elected House of Commons.

The bombings of July 7, which killed 52 commuters in London, and a similar but botched attack two weeks later point up "the need to maintain a vigorous approach to dealing with terrorists and their supporters," he said. *AFP*

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Asian parliamentarians want UN action on Burma

UNITED NATIONS—A GROUP OF SOUTHEAST Asian parliamentarians advocated on Monday that the United Nations organize major countries to pressure Burma's (Myanmar) military junta into accepting some democratic reforms.

Three legislators, from Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore told a news conference that Asean, the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations, was incapable of bringing about change in Burma without outside help.

Instead, the three, representing some 100 parliamentarians, said the United States, the European Union, Japan, China, India, Russia and Asean should devise standards of democratic change Burma should make and then pressure the military to accept them.

The effort, they said, would best be led by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. The group met Ibrahim Gambari, the UN undersecretary general for political affairs.

"If we all agree on the basic parameters, then perhaps we may see some progress," said Malaysian parliamentarian Zaid Ibrahim, chair of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus.

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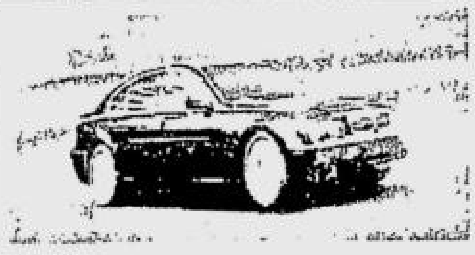
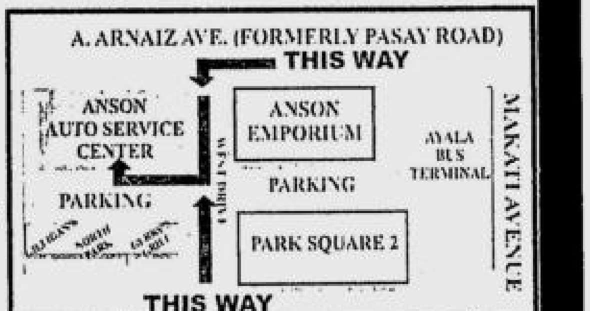
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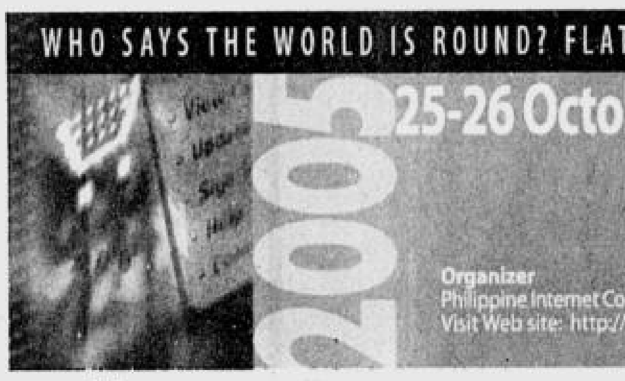
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- Relevant Legislation on ICT/E-Commerce / Mobile/Wireless Affecting SME Business
- E-Commerce in a Nutshell: A Starter Course (Building websites, planning substansive content for web sites, choosing your ISP, domain name registration, search engine optimization, and affiliate program)
- Presentation and Panel Discussion on Database Marketing, Web Advertising, Mobile Marketing
- Creating Consumer Evangelists: Blogging, and Other Participative Technologies
- ICT and Telecom Presentation

Day 2, October 26, 2005, Wednesday
- Industry Situationer on Mobile Payment
- Available e-Payment Solutions (Panel Discussion and Discussion plus Case Presentation)
- Mobile Micro Payment in Small Business
- Security on Mobile Payment
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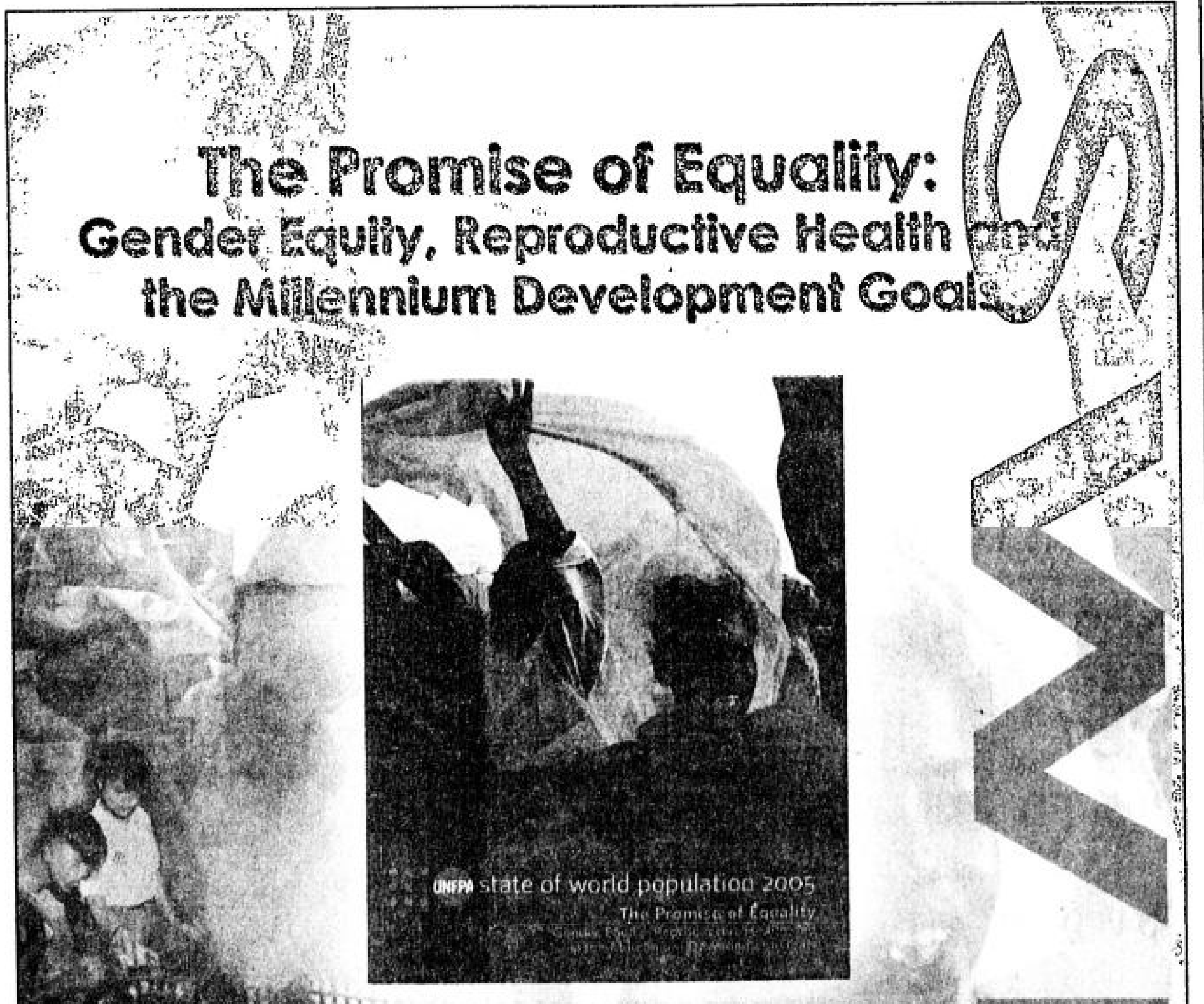
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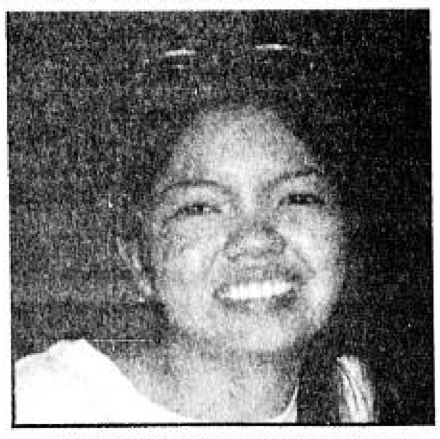

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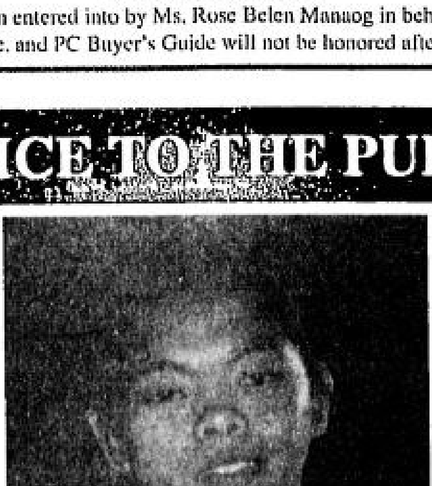

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China to launch 2nd manned space flight

BEIJING—CHINA IS COUNTing down to a manned space launch expected on Wednesday, joining an exclusive club of just three countries to put a man into space twice.

The Shenzhou VI would blast off in northwest China "at a proper time" between Oct. 12 and 15, China's official Xinhua news agency said, citing an official with China's space program.

But a source told Reuters that the Shenzhou VI would blast off on Wednesday, a day after the Communist Party finishes a major meeting to map out economic and social development.

State television will cover the launch live two years after China's maiden manned space mission, when Col. Yang Liwei orbited Earth 14 times on the Shenzhou V craft in October 2003.

Showing how far China has to go to catch up space powers Russia and the United States, a Russian capsule carrying one cosmonaut, a US astronaut and an American space tourist returned to Earth on Tuesday from the International Space Station.

Russia, then as the former Soviet Union, and the United States put their first men into space in 1961.

China's spacecraft, with two astronauts aboard, would blast off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Gansu province and touch down in the remote northern region of Inner Mongolia, Xinhua said.

The next two Chinese to get +a ticket into space, selected through a rigorous screening process that started with 14 former fighter pilots, had been decided, it said, but their identities have been kept a strict secret.

"China will never be a superpower, but as the world's biggest developing country with 1.3 billion people, it should have a place in aerospace development and make due contributions," Wang Yongzhi, chief designer of China's manned spaceflight program, was quoted as saying. *Reuters*

Merkel is Germany's 1st woman chancellor

BERLIN—GERMANY EMBARKED on a historic course on Monday as conservative leader Angela Merkel won the battle to become the country's first woman chancellor and Gerhard Schroeder bowed out after seven years in power.

Schroeder only agreed to step down after ensuring a handsome deal for his Social Democrats (SPD), who will control the majority of the ministries in a coalition government with Merkel's Christian Democrat alliance.

But Schroeder will play no role in the new left-right government, SPD sources said.

The end of three weeks of political deadlock in Europe's biggest economy was welcomed by the European Union and Germany's neighbors.

The German press hailed the remarkable rise to power of the 51-year-old Merkel who grew up in the communist former East Germany, but warned that the government she will preside over could be fraught with divisions.

"It is a turning point, a truly historic moment because of Merkel's background," the Berlin-based Der Tagesspiegel daily said in an advance report from its Tuesday edition.

Merkel vowed that her new government would tackle urgent reforms to revive the stuttering economy, which is saddled by unemployment at currently more than 11 percent.

She said the agreement would pave the way for formal coalition negotiations starting next week, and her Christian Union alliance would take six ministries, with the SPD getting eight Cabinet posts.

"We have achieved something big, we have the basis for coalition talks," she told a press conference.

"We agree that we have no alternative to the reform process. We have set our aim to create a coalition that stands for new policies."

Creating jobs would be a priority for the new administration, she added.

Pressed by reporters how she felt, Merkel broke into a smile. "I feel good, but a lot of work lies ahead of us."

News of Germany's first "grand coalition" since the 1960s saw the euro rise against the dollar.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair sent his congratulations.

"The prime minister congratulates Angela Merkel on her elevation and hopes to be speaking to her later this afternoon," his official spokesperson said.

MERKEL AP

French President Jacques Chirac invited Merkel to Paris "as soon as possible" and a spokesperson for European Commission head Jose Manuel Barroso said he "was happy that the period of waiting is over."

Washington said it looked forward to working with her. "We welcome Angela Merkel being designated chancellor," State Department spokesperson Tom Casey told AFP.

Merkel said she hoped to improve relations with the United States which plunged to freezing point when Schroeder refused to provide any military support for the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

The coalition deal was hammered out after intense negotiations following a Sept. 18 general election which gave Merkel's party only a four-seat advantage over the SPD.

According to sources close to the SPD, the Social Democrats will take the key ministries of foreign affairs, finance, labor and justice, as well as health, aid and cooperation, transport and environment.

Merkel's conservatives would have economy, interior, defense, agriculture, education and family ministries.

Edmund Stoiber, the state premier of Germany's most wealthy region Bavaria, confirmed he would take over the economy portfolio.

Peter Struck, currently the defense minister, may switch to become foreign minister, according to some reports.

But it remains unclear how the division of responsibilities will affect her ability to govern. *AFP*

PHILAMLIFE TO RELEASE P179.5 MILLION OF SCHOLAR EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR SECOND SEMESTER

The country's No. 1 life insurance company, Philamlife, announced that it will release the second tranche of education benefits for Philamlife scholars starting October 1, 2005 in all its branches nationwide.

A total of P179.5 million in the form of bank checks, auto-credit transfers to Philam Bank savings accounts, and Banco de Oro cash cards are ready for disbursement to the parents of 29,017 Philamlife scholars by the first week of October.

These benefits are intended for the tuition and other enrollment expenses of the scholars covered by Philamlife's various education insurance products. The timely release of these benefits will allow parents to enroll their children for the second semester of school year 2005-06.

Since Philamlife launched its first education insurance product in December 1985, it has continuously enhanced its products to fulfill the needs of the changing market. Scholar Plus was launched in 1990 and featured a short 5-year paying period, Scholar Gold followed in 1993 with improved features and benefits, and International Scholar, the company's first dollar-denominated education product, was launched in 2001. Its newest education products are Scholar Gold Prime, Scholar Gold Advantage and International Scholar Plus, which provide more comprehensive benefits.

Philamlife only offers products that are "fixed-value" in nature, unlike many pre-need educational products that are classified as "traditional or open-ended." Open-ended plans promise to pay for a child's education when he steps into college, regardless of how much the tuition fees are at that time. Since tuition fees have risen significantly over the years due to deregulation, many companies selling open-ended plans have seen their trust funds depleted. A number of companies selling these plans have been in the spotlight recently, struggling to meet their commitments to their plan holders.

Fixed-value education products, on the other hand, peg the promised payment to a specific pre-computed amount, and are thus more easily managed. A company selling fixed-value plans knows exactly how much its obligations will be at a certain point in time, and can thus manage its trust funds more effectively.

Philamlife has consistently and faithfully paid-out education benefits to its more than a hundred thousand scholars through the years. Over the last 3 years (2003-2005), Philamlife has paid-out a total of P836.3 million in Scholar education benefits. The company started paying-out education benefits to its Scholars as far back as May 1992.

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SCHELLING

Israeli, American win economics Nobel for 'game theory' work

STOCKHOLM—AN AMERICAN AND AN ISraeli won the 2005 Nobel prize for economics on Monday for their work on "game theory," which can help explain and resolve trade and business conflicts, and even play a role in avoiding war.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences gave the 10 million crown ($1.3 million) prize to Thomas Schelling and Robert Aumann for work that has found uses in "security and disarmament policies, price formation on markets, as well as economic and political negotiations."

Aumann, 75, was born in Germany but is an Israeli and US citizen who teaches at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Schelling, 84, teaches at the University of Maryland.

"Game theory" is the science of strategy and attempts to determine what actions different "players"—such as trading partners, employers, unions or even organized crime groups—should take to secure the best outcome for themselves.

Game theory work has won the Nobel before. John Nash, the mathematician whose life was portrayed in the movie "A Beautiful Mind," won the economics prize with two others in 1994.

"I think game theory creates ideas that are important in solving and approaching conflict in general," Aumann told the awards ceremony by telephone from Israel.

Asked whether it could help solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he said: "I do hope that perhaps some game theory can be used and be part of this solution." Schelling told Reuters by telephone from his home in Maryland.

"I'm a student of cooperation and conflict, I'm not really a game theorist... I would not try very hard to make the case that what I do is economics," he said.

Schelling, whose career began with work on the US Marshall Plan to help rebuild Europe after World War Two, has applied game theory to global security and the Cold War arms race. He has tried to explain how a taboo around nuclear weapons after the bombing of Hiroshima in 1945 itself became a factor in deterring their use after World War Two, even as both sides of the Cold War amassed big nuclear arsenals.

Aumann was cited for his analysis of "infinitely repeated games" to identify what outcomes can be maintained over time.

"Insights into these issues help explain economic conflicts such as price wars and trade wars, as well as why some communities are more successful than others in managing common-pool resources," said the Academy citation. *Reuters*

Grotesque museum attracts thousands

THIS, HER FRIENDS AGREE, IS HOW she would want to be remembered: her own Gretchen Worden Room at the Muetter Museum, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia's collection of medical specimens and instruments.

It's a small room, in a former storage area Worden jokingly referred to as "the tumor room." But it has been handsomely fitted out with display cases of polished wood and glass, filled with the kinds of spectacularly grotesque anatomical oddities Worden spent her adult life explicating as the museum's director and tireless promoter.

There are jars of preserved human kidneys and livers, and a man's skull so eaten away by tertiary syphilis that it looks like pounded rock. There are dried severed hands shiny as lacquered wood, showing their veins like leaves; a distended ovary larger than a soccer ball; spines and leg bones so twisted by rickets they're painful just to see; the skeleton of a dwarf who stood 3 ft 6 in. small, next to that of a giant who towered 7-and-a-half ft. And "Jim and Joe," the green-tinged corpse of a two-headed baby, sleeping in a bath of formaldehyde.

A roomful of diseased organs and genetic monsters would seem a strange memorial only to those who didn't know Worden.

"I think she would have loved it," Margaret Lyman, the Muetter's curator, said a little more than a year after Worden's death, at 56, of long-term complications from Hodgkin's disease.

Tucked inside an austere brick building on South 22nd Street in downtown Philadelphia, the Muetter Museum was established in 1849. It was a time when every medical school had its collection of anatomical specimens to use as instructional tools, and many of the Muetter's 20,000 items are antiques—brains cut into thin slices like human mortadella; microencephalic fetuses tiny as mice; the liver of the celebrated "Siamese Twins," Chang and Eng. *New York Times News Service*

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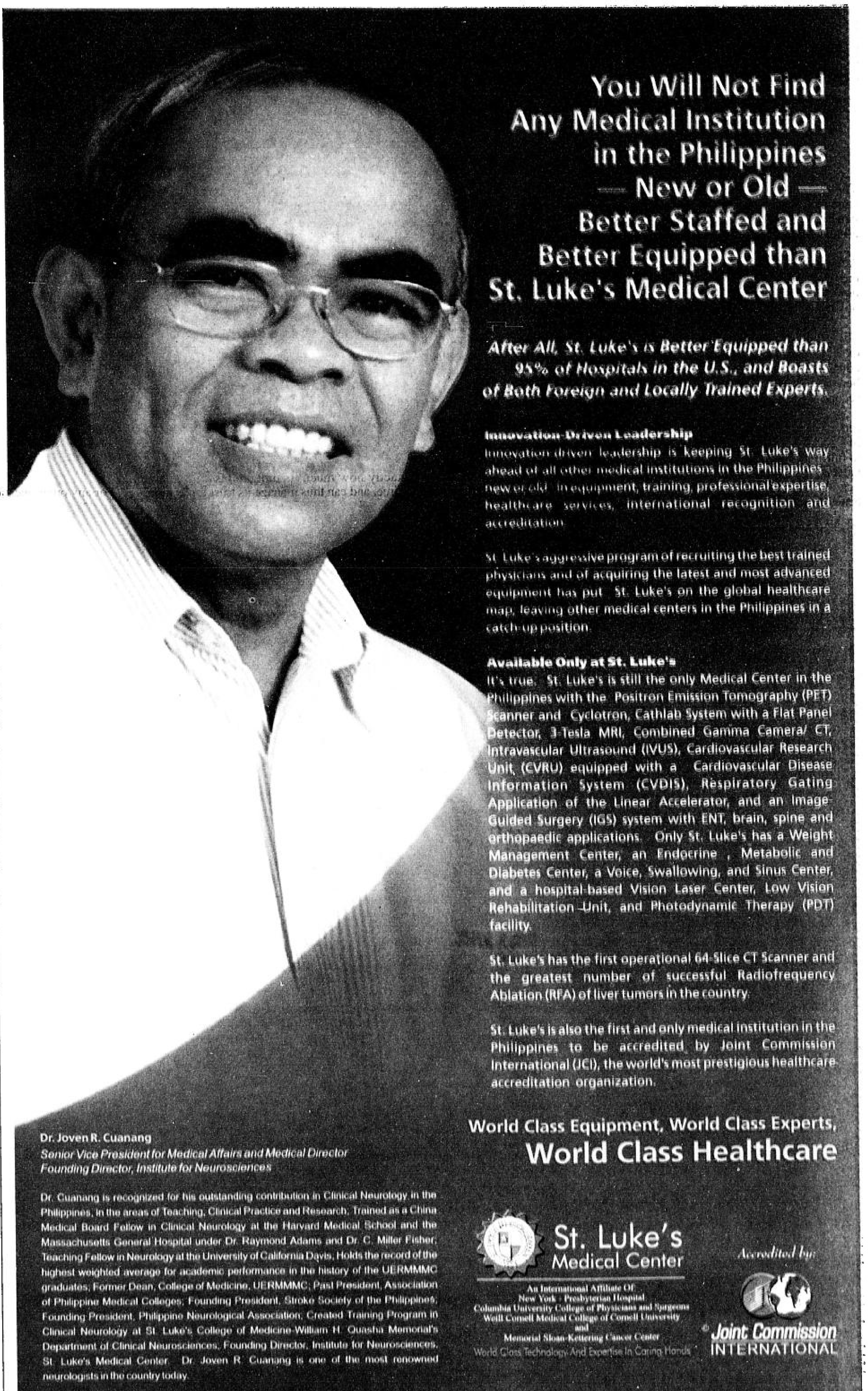

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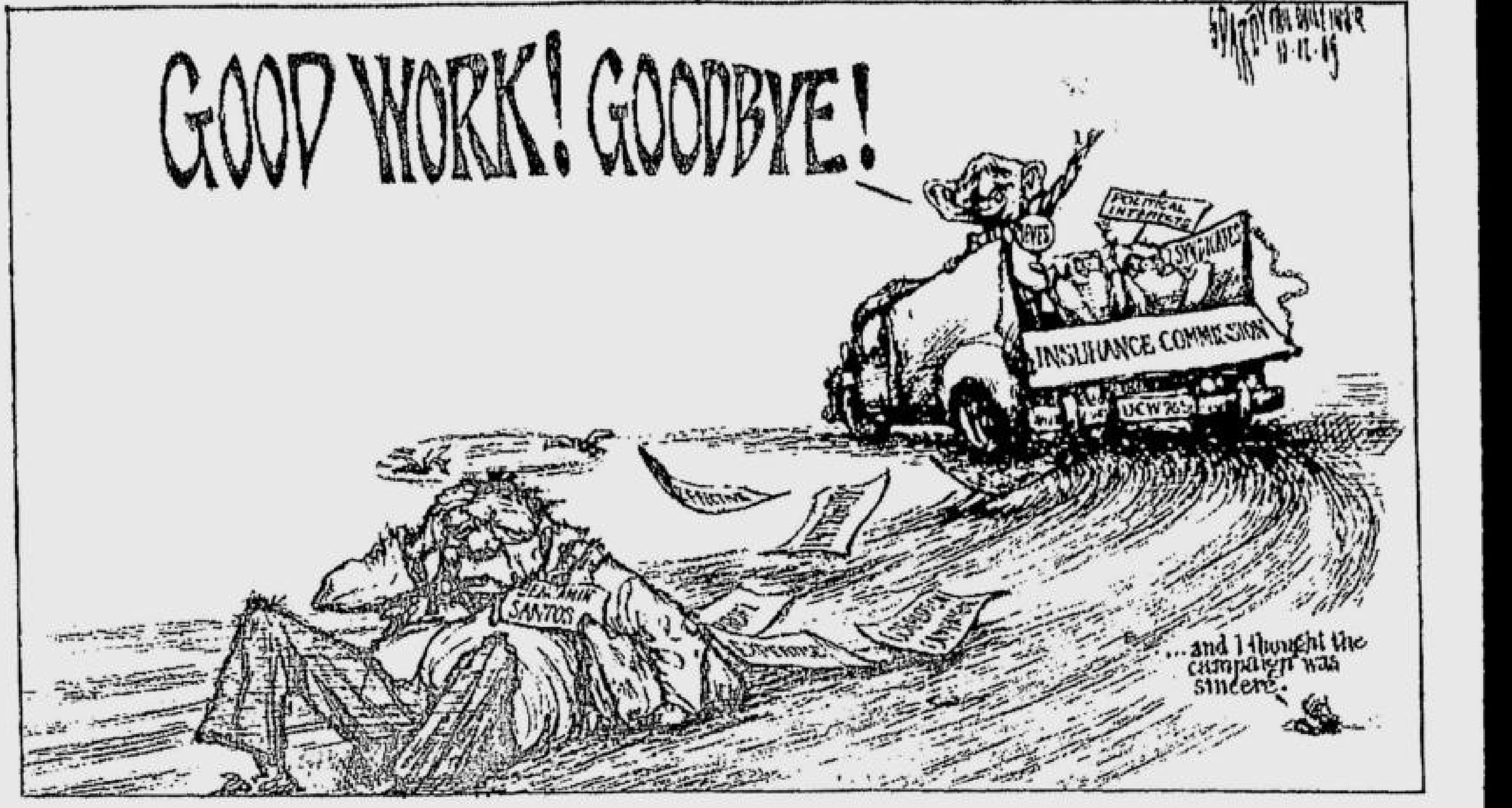

Good cop, bad cop

EDITORIAL

WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE GOOD COP-bad cop, routine. The present administration has perfected it to the level of performance art. There are the designated good cops, such as Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita with his soothing voice and unflustered style; and the bad cops, such as the impatient and undiplomatic Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. Anyway, we must bear in mind that, whether in TV shows or in real life, good cops or bad cops all work for the same team.

What we are seeing at present is a good cop-bad cop routine with a new twist: the launching of trial balloons; and a third cop with a stopwatch. The process works this way: a designated bad cop says something provocative and launches a trial balloon. The third cop with the stopwatch, (he's unnamed), starts the timer and waits to see how long it will take for the opposition, key sectors of society, the media and the public, to react, either positively or negatively—that is, if they choose not to remain indifferent. If the reactions from the public become too hostile for comfort, the good cop takes the center stage and promptly shoots the trial balloon down. And then the bad cop comes out again to start the cycle.

A perfect example showing how this routine goes about is this talk going around town—that the President's people are preparing to declare some sort of a state of national emergency, which would allow the President to harness either the latent powers of her office, or invoke extraordinary powers, the use of which the approval of Congress is not constitutionally required. The bad cops of the administration, led by Secretary Gonzalez, have been specifically floating around the idea of invoking the presidential prerogative in times of economic emergencies to take over vital strategic industries.

Another idea that has been broached is to prepare the country for the President's calling out the armed forces or impose stringent measures in case of a coup attempt or a terrorist attack. What has been consistently denied by the good cops is that the proposed—and often vaguely described—measures smell like martial law.

As we've said, what's important is to bear in mind that these people—whether good cops or bad cops—all work for the same team.

We should also bear in mind that good cops or bad cops, all of them are members of the Cabinet. The timekeepers are, of course, the President's propagandists.

At this point, it is a stretch to accuse the President of dictatorial ambitions. What is apparent is a relentless effort to sow division, mistrust, and alarm within the ranks of her opponents. At the same time, public opinion on every possible contingency—short of a formal proclamation of martial law—is being tested. So far, the public seems jaded to respond to the administration's gambits, or the alarms being raised by its opponents.

We can be sure that all these factors are being noted down, weighed, measured, and taken into consideration by the President's timekeepers, perhaps, even by Ms Arroyo herself.

The continuous and merciless attacks on former President Aquino and the attempts to tarnish, through rumors and innuendoes, the reputations of those close to her (the very things the President virtuously proclaimed as being the hallmarks of a defective political culture, of which she is a victim); and the filing of cases against anyone possibly in a position to be a political threat, show that this administration is proving to be skilled in eliminating anyone in a position to speak up against the President.

The President's people may, indeed, be looking at a martial law scenario. But what they are doing right now is far more sinister, for in the process, they are successfully eroding public confidence in every institution tasked to serve as part of the check-and-balance mechanisms of our democracy. In fact, no institution has been left unscathed, whether the bureaucracy, the military, the judiciary, or the legislature. In fact, it is only the Senate that is left resisting the President.

Meanwhile, our businessmen, bishops, the public and the political parties are seriously divided.

So who needs martial law when the administration, even if unable to redeem itself, appears to be succeeding in sapping the energy of every challenger to the throne? But even then, should it still become necessary, all it would take to get Secretary Gonzalez's trial balloon really flying is the signature of the President.

Don't scrap NorthRail project; renegotiate it

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THIS IS A CONTRARY VIEW TO THE PREVAILing sentiment for the scrapping of the NorthRail project. The are two reasons given by the oppositors: 1) it's overpriced; and 2) there was no public bidding conducted before the project was awarded to a Chinese corporation. All that may be true (although NorthRail gives convincing arguments to the contrary). But that does not change the fact that we need railroads urgently to improve our transportation system; perk up commerce; and decongest the urban areas and develop the countryside.

The biggest mistake of the Philippine government was neglecting the Philippine National Railroad (PNR), allowing it to deteriorate, stopping its service to the North, and abandoning the railroad right-of-way. All over the world, the railroad is the cheapest mode of transportation because of its capacity to carry huge volumes of passengers and cargoes. Many countries, notably Japan, China and Italy, are developing faster and better trains; but the Philippines is going backwards on this mode of transportation. America seduced us into investing more money for the construction of highways instead of railroads to advance the interests of the American auto manufacturers. We are still doing that—investing so much in highways, except that the American automotive firms have been replaced mostly by Japanese companies.

Up to the time of President Diosdado Macapagal, Ate Glue's ever-loving daddy, one could travel in comfort up to Damortis in La Union in the North and up to Legaspi in Albay in the South, aboard first class, air-conditioned coaches with dining cars. One could sleep through the night aboard a Bicol Express sleeper train as they cruised from Tutuban in Manila to Bicol, and wake up in the morning in Legaspi. In Damortis, the PNR had first class buses and limousines ready to take passengers getting off the train up to Baguio.

President Macapagal and his family (the future Ate Glue, among them), and the reporters covering them, regularly took the train when going to Baguio, Poro Point, and other places in the north. He would bring boxes of documents with him and work on them in his private coach while the train chug-chugged to Damortis.

What's more, merchandise and other cargoes moving from north to south Luzon and vice versa could be transported fast—and at lesser transportation cost—by train. And provincial folk commuted between villages and cities easily via the trains.

There was no NLEX (North Luzon Expressway) then. There was only one highway to the north, the MacArthur Highway (through which the American Liberation forces fought their way from Lingayen Gulf to Manila), but it was not congested with traffic as it is now. It wound through beautiful, bucolic countrysides, lined with trees, bamboo groves, and nipa huts. Only carabao-drawn carts competed with the few trucks, buses, and cars that used the MacArthur Highway. Most of the people and cargoes traveled by train.

When the Philippine government, beginning with the regime of President Marcos, became enamored with four-wheeled, gasoline-driven vehicles—with the encouragement of the Americans who were manufacturing and selling to us those vehicles—we forgot the railroad and left it to go to seed.

We allowed squatters to invade the railroad tracks and steal the steel rails; and they behaved as if they owned the railroad right-of-way. It is only now that we are waking up to the fact that we need the railroad; and that we are illegally spending billions of scarce tax money to relocate the squatters.

The laws are very clear: squatters in the right-of-way of government infrastructure projects, such as railroads and streets, are not entitled to relocation and financial assistance. But because they are afraid of squatters (they are not only prone to violence; they are also voters), government officials prefer to disobey the laws rather than enforce them.

So now we are spending billions of pesos that we can't afford—just to make these lawbreakers happy. But they're still not happy. Their lawyers (along with, surprisingly, the UP Law Center who should know better) have asked the Supreme Court to nullify the NorthRail project. Their reason: the project is "overpriced" and it was awarded with "no public bidding."

NorthRail says that the reason the project appears expensive on a per-kilometer basis is that this is a double-track railroad, unlike the old one which was single-track. The per-kilometer cost can be cut in half simply by reverting to the single-track system. For the same amount of money, therefore, we can double the length of the railroad, perhaps, as far as halfway to Damortis from Manila.

As for the money, the Chinese government is lending it to us at a preferential 3 percent interest rate, payable in 25 years. And that is why there was no public bidding—it was a government-to-government negotiation.

But even granting that the project was defective, the solution is not to scrap it but to renegotiate its contract. Hold a public bidding. If somebody offers better terms, well and good. If nobody does, give it back to the Chinese.

Oppositors say the Chinese are selling us their old locomotives and coaches. True. That is why they can sell them to us cheap. And we cannot afford the rails and rolling stock of the new high-speed trains anyway. Let's start with what we can afford. Let's graduate to the more expensive ones when our financial situation improves.

Meanwhile, we need railroads very badly. In fact, we should extend the NorthRail up to Laoag and Aparri, and the SouthRail up to Sorsogon. We should also have a railroad in Mindanao.

Madness

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT WAS THE EVENING OF A TUESDAY, AND most of the stores had just closed. People were on their way home from work, or from shopping. Then, suddenly, at half past eight, the entrance of a big department store let out a roar and sent debris flying in all directions. A woman who was standing in front of it was hurled backwards and thrown into the pavement. Her face was torn off, making her completely unrecognizable. She died there and then. Some 41 other people were wounded and brought to the hospital, some of them critical—though they eventually managed to pull through. The bomb blast—which it was—left a gaping hole where a wall and a door used to be. And it left a city in shock.

I wrote that in a book called "Dead Aim," which told of how Marcos mounted a dictatorship on this country. That event happened 33 years ago, on Sept. 5, 1972, a couple of weeks before Marcos declared martial law. The store was Joe's Department Store, a fairly well-known place in Carriedo, then the shopping center of Greater Manila. It was the fiercest bombing in a series of bombings that had begun to rock the metropolis then.

Everyone knew it was Marcos who was committing the mayhem. But he kept up the pretense of innocence, of course. Without investigation, Juan Ponce Enrile, the defense secretary, immediately claimed it was part of the NPA's September-October plans, which were a sequel to its July-August plans, calling for a series of terrorist activities.

I remembered that because of the stories going around about GMA's plot to declare martial law, or at least emergency rule with powers that could expand to include the ones Marcos held then. The stories say she will use a private army from Mindanao to sow terror in Metro Manila, specifically by a series of bombings, blaming it on sundry terrorist groups, local and foreign. The predictions on when she will carry it out vary, but most say she will do it at the end of the month. That is so because Congress will be in recess, and there is a long holiday ahead. Marcos himself declared martial law on the midnight of Friday, counting on the weekend to preempt rallies and other acts of protest.

Do I believe GMA will mount her version of martial law? Well, unless this country moves even now to protest the calibrated madness, yes, I think it is possible. We start seeing a new round of bombings in this city—and if you're a parent, you know that is a scary thought—and it becomes more than possible, it becomes probable.

The least of my reasons for believing so is that Raul Gonzalez has a draft of an order declaring emergency rule. Gonzalez is the palace clown, put there to shoot his mouth off and get the brickbats. After all this is over, he could make a fortune playing villain in movies. Unless Susan Roces, Cory, and the other aggrieved women he has called names, not to speak of his wife, get him first.

At the very least, my reason for believing so is that GMA is surrounded by people who are intimately familiar with martial law, having helped mount it or fought it ferociously. Not least of them is Enrile himself who, as a clincher to the special effects Marcos was unleashing to justify martial law, mounted a mock assassination attempt on himself. His car was riddled with bullets in Wack Wack, which was unfortunate only in that he wasn't in it. Miriam, Gonzalez's loony-tunes partner, has already warned about an assassination attempt on her new idol, GMA. One of their cars gets riddled with bullets over the next couple of weeks with unfortunately none of them being in it, and you know something's afoot. Those are the two things to watch out for, bombings and apparent assassination attempts on GMA or her people.

Quite apart from that, there are the ex-activists who are currently advising GMA now in the finer points of mounting a dictatorship. Putschists then, fascists now.

Yet another reason I believe it: GMA is under more pressure today than Marcos was in 1972 to scrap all democratic process. Marcos did so out of ambition, GMA may yet do so out of desperation. Marcos declared martial law because he wanted to stay on in power after 1973. He was the elected president and had one more year to go. There was no threat to his rule, only to his ambition to rule after his term ended. His admirers would say later on that declaring martial law a year before his term ended was a brilliant move: No one expected it; most everyone thought he would do it the following year, if he did it at all.

GMA's problem is more pressing. She is not the elected president of this country, a fact few now even bother to dispute. The only way she has been able to rule—or at least keep power with governance having become non-existent in this country—is to buy off the support of public officials, elected or appointed. With sums that get to be more staggering by the day. The congressmen have had their fill, now come the local officials. It's a tossup which comes first—GMA running out of cash or the nation running out of patience.

From the other end, it's not just Cory and Susan, Senate and civil society, opposition and population that have gotten restive, it's the military, too. Particularly after the Gudani and Balutan episode, which has made the young officers' cause more than a matter of honor, it has made it a matter of survival. The threat of a coup isn't veiled, it is being made openly.

Won't GMA be mad to declare martial law, or a facsimile thereof, without the military eating from the palm of her hands the way Marcos did? Well, there is madness that goes beyond Imeldific hyperbole and Miriamic outbursts. Look at the way GMA has tried to cling to power against all odds, against all decency, against all comprehension. Mad?

Who says she isn't so already?

Enlightenment on trial

COMMENTARY

Helga Nowotny

UGLY DEBATES ABOUT RELIGION AND science usually seem to be confined to the United States. In recent months, however, such debates have begun to spread—first to Europe and then around the world. Science, it seems, is drifting into political dangers it has not faced since before the Enlightenment.

Europe began its own American-style debate on the origins of life when Cardinal Christoph Schönborn of Vienna cast doubt on the acceptability of Darwinism and evolutionary theory to people who see themselves as faithful Roman Catholics. The Cardinal argued that evolution is the work of God and that evolutionary theory should be interpreted in that light and no other.

With Cardinal Schönborn's intervention, the peace between science and religion that in Old Europe had held almost since the Enlightenment—and at least since the historically hard-won eviction of the Church from politics in the late 19th and early 20th centuries—seemed suddenly to have been broken. Revealed truth, the Cardinal seemed to say, must be accorded primacy over the truths science reveals through reason.

This is not to say that religious sentiment or, in the case of Germany, bitter historical experience stemming from the Nazi era, had not informed other European debates, say, on the ethics of stem-cell research. Indeed, the religious background of Europe's nations clearly manifested itself in various European laws on such research, with the United Kingdom and Sweden being the most liberal and Italy, Austria and Poland the most restrictive. But none of these debates directly challenged the role of science in society, or posed—as Cardinal Schönborn did—the idea that religion and science are potentially incompatible.

Following the Cardinal's declaration, many pointed to the US as a warning sign of the dangers inherent in politicizing science through religion. They noted that President Bush had sided openly with those who want to make evolutionary theory optional in schools' science curricula.

The reason that such pseudo-science has prevailed in so many American schools is directly related to America's tremendously decentralized school system, which allows committed local groups of the religious-minded to reshape the curriculum. The power of faith-based movements in the United States is undeniable, and their influence in other areas where science and politics meet, including the availability of certain drugs - the so-called "morning after" pill being one example—is growing.

It is unlikely that European schools, because of their structure, can be invaded by "creationism." Yet Europe should not think itself immune to this problem.

When dogmatic faith enters politics, compromises on controversial issues, which are indispensable in a democracy, become difficult to achieve. This is because fundamental values—as opposed to, say, the distribution of material resources—are seen as being non-negotiable. The danger is that scientific decisions with a scientific-technical component are no longer subject to study or rational argument, but instead are fought over by various interest groups, with some of them invariably claiming that their taxes should be used to fund only research that is compatible with their values.

Debates about the nature and benefits of science are not confined to the US and Europe. When South Korea's National University announced the first-ever successful cloning of a dog, the news triggered arguments about science and society throughout Asia. Although the language of religion was not used overtly, the debate in Asia reflected the same fears that science is somehow "out of control" and far too powerful.

One key reason for this is the fact that China is pouring vast resources into research and development. Between 1995 and 2002, it doubled the percentage of its rapidly growing GDP that it invests in R&D, with biotechnology and other high-tech fields enjoying the highest priority. Science, it seems, is becoming a partner in the unnerving development of a new global superpower.

Today, science belongs to a rapidly globalizing world. It is perceived as a motor of economic growth, but also as a threat to our security and beliefs. Cultural worldviews and religion, of course, will continue to shape the overall cultural and value context within which science and technology interact. But values are subject to change, often in response to past experience and fears about the future.

It took centuries for science to carve out its sphere of autonomy, always a relative one, from politics and religion alike. This autonomy has served science well, and independent and accountable science has served society and the economy well. If this beneficial relationship is to be maintained, scientific independence—from both religious dogmatism and governmental intervention—must be defended. Who would have thought that, at the dawn of the 21st century, the old Enlightenment debates would still be so potent?

Project Syndicate

Helga Nowotny is Professor of Science Studies, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, and Chair of the European Research Advisory Board.

Teens, sex and James Bond

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS HAVE BECOME increasingly vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, and prone to adopting unhealthy practices like the use of illegal drugs, part of the blame should be placed on—James Bond.

At least that's the view of doctors who authored an article published in the British publication Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine.

A report carried by the Agence France Presse said "Bond was cited as a particular villain" in the article, which cited repeated scenes of unprotected sex, drug use, smoking and alcohol abuse in popular films, evidence that "film makers (were) depicting unhealthy behavior without mentioning the potential consequences."

A team of three Australian health experts led by Dr. Hasantha Gunasekera from the University of Sydney compiled the report by examining 87 of the most popular films (for adults) of the past 20 years, the AFP reported. Only a fourth of the movies were free of drug, alcohol, smoking or scenes showing characters engaging in unsafe sex, it was reported, and "of 53 sex scenes in total just one, the Julia Roberts comedy 'Pretty Woman' from 1990, suggested condom use."

Secret Agent 007 was found "guilty" of three sexual encounters in the 2002 film "Die Another Day" in which condoms and other forms of protection were not mentioned at all.

Another movie, "Basic Instinct" (1992), included six sex scenes without a suggestion of condoms and other protection, while the 2001 teen comedy "American Pie 2" contained seven unsafe sex scenes. The report said the only consequence of the shown casual sex encounters was "social embarrassment."

"The same was largely true for drugs, with scenes containing cannabis not depicting any negative consequences, while more than half portrayed the drug as positive," AFP reported.

"The most popular movies of the last two decades often show normative depictions of negative health behaviors," the report concluded.

In conclusion, the doctors said the motion picture industry worldwide "should be encouraged to depict safer sex practices and the real consequences of unprotected sex and illicit drug use."

* * *

THE REPORT reminds me of the flap raised decades ago over a show about a teenage boy losing his virginity to his equally young girlfriend. The outcry was not so much about teens engaging in sex as the producers' and writers' intention to show the lead character using (or talking about using) a condom. Apparently, adolescent sex is not as scandalous as adolescents being responsible and using protection.

A movie still showing in local theaters, "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," even depicts condom use as, at best, inconvenient and even comical. But I suppose we should be grateful that condoms were even mentioned at all.

Which brings me to local entertainment. I can't recall a local TV or movie production where characters are shown discussing contraception, much less practicing it. If a couple is shown visiting a doctor's office, it is usually because the woman has difficulty conceiving. The consequences of having more children than a couple can feed or educate are usually depicted in a highly comical, slapstick manner, blunting the very real pain and dilemmas faced by large families with limited resources.

But we're talking entertainment here, some might say. *Telenovelas* and "*kilig*" movies are not documentaries, after all. But there lies their real power. Because entertainment fare appeals to emotions and the senses, it catches viewers unawares and open to subliminal suggestions about behavior and attitudes. This is the reason, for instance, at the suggestion of lobby groups, that no movies or TV shows in the United States ever show a driver or passenger in a car not wearing a seat belt. And because of the "coolness" factor that drives cigarette use, depicting characters smoking onscreen is increasingly discouraged. Cannot the same suggestions apply to sex scenes, especially among teens?

I wonder, for instance, if the housemates of "Pinoy Big Brother" would ever bother, in the midst of all their outrageous talk about sex, to bring up the matter of contraception and protection?

* * *

STILL on the matter of teens and sex, there was a controversy some months back in Seattle about a poem (by 17-year-old Zoya Raskina about a girl's first sexual experience) with the title "My First F---." After an outcry was raised by irate parents, copies of the high school literary journal where the poem was published were recalled and shredded. Thankfully, Zoya's parents have stood foursquare behind her and supported her right to express herself and to discuss a sensitive issue that is of much concern to teenagers like her.

Zoya told reporters that all she wanted to do with the poem was "to express the pressure that oozes from the oxygen kids breathe... There is always pressure—on TV, in movies, music, pretty much everywhere. I wanted to empathize with that. To say it's OK not to have sex if you don't feel like it, and how you might feel afterwards. I'm not promoting abstinence or sex either."

Here's the full text of Zoya's poem. Judge for yourselves whether the scandalized adults' reaction was at all justified.

It goes: "Sure he claims he loves me. And holds me oh so tight. He makes me believe this is special. That he can hold on all night. He claims he isn't pressuring me. But his hand is down my pants. Temptation rises and I give in. He turns over, checks the time, gets up and drives me home. No kiss good night. No 'I love you.' No telephone call."

Hams

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

KWENTONG KUTSERO IS A TERM SELDOM used these days because we don't ride horse-drawn carriages anymore. The stories our barber, the late Candido "Bidung" Cruz, narrated while cutting my hair were also referred to as "*kwentong kutsero*." They should rightfully be called "*kwentong barbero*." Barber Bidung was a primary source for other things as well. Once he related how he earned a living as a boy in pre-war Manila, by selling a magazine called "Scandal," which once had on its cover the golf-playing Archbishop of Manila Msgr. O'Doherty, smooching a lady from his flock. Sex and clergy always make good copy, though I think a bishop kissing a woman isn't as scandalous as kissing a man—or an animal. In the course of some library research, I validated what I once thought was *kwentong barbero*: the magazine did exist. One issue had a fat D.O.M. necking with a woman in bed. The magazine offered a prize to anyone who could identify the congressman and the actress "relaxing in a government cottage in Baguio." These days we have more fun with blind items or videotaped sex on cellphones.

Then there was the story of a congressman robbed of P500 by a *bailarina*. He had the girl arrested, but couldn't file charges against her because taking her to court would be a scandal. The rest of the stories were quite common, hardly scandalous to us today, eg., graft and corruption (if it's not in high places, it's not scandalous). Would you believe there was pre-war *hulidap* by policemen; and, of course, wife beating, divorce, separation, and the affairs of Manila's 400, proving that not much has changed in the Philippines in the past 80 years, except size and scope of scandal?

Articles came out in Spanish and English. Most titillating was the column called "*Ojos y oidos*" literally "seen and heard" which is a precursor of Maurice Arcache and Tim Yap's society columns, except that the pre war version was more substantial in terms of gossip rather than the mugshots of the same happy people that bore us every week. "Scandal" did not waste space on cosmetics and parties; it specialized in scandals.

Sex in high places obviously overshadowed graft and corruption, and the irony of it all was that the magazine seemed to have a campaign against prostitution and the mushrooming of "cabaret-roadhouses" in places like Pasay and Quiapo. What else is new? Religious and civic groups protested against one on Apelo Street, Pasay near Taft Ave., which was owned by a certain Mariano Trinidad a.k.a "Marianong Itim," owner of the Oriental bar, because one needed conformity of at least half of the residents in the area to open a cabaret. It seems he opened shop without approval.

Despite the anti-prostitution campaign, the magazine carried innocent-looking ads for whorehouses. I almost glossed over the ads for "Mayon Ham" if not for my interest in food. I read one ad and realized these "refreshment parlors" and bars sold a different kind of ham:

"Fresh hams for sale! The best quality in town—always fresh stock on hand. Price (per leg not by pound or kilo) is conventional depending on customer's ability to pay. Cannot be, however, guaranteed if pure and unadulterated. Insist on Mayon brand—don't accept any substitute. Try one and be convinced. (Note: don't hesitate to come in, there are no vice squads around.) MAYON a stonethrow (sic) from Bilibid and F.E.U. Azcarraga."

Another ad for Mayon Ham boasted that it was, "best in town...clean and wholesome and delicious...Always with new stock from Bicol and other provinces..." These "refreshment parlors" were open 24 hours a day but the peak periods were obviously from 8 p.m. to midnight; low-class houses for the hoi polloi sold their "hams" at P2 to P5 per leg, unlike the high class private houses were a "leg" of ham could be had for P10 up. Most of these establishments were in Quiapo around the Estero Cegado, P. Gomez, Sales, P. Paterno and R. Hidalgo, an artistocratic district in the 19th-century that went to seed in the 20th century. These days the refreshment parlors are gone, having been replaced by boarding houses and accesorias and sari-sari stores and diploma mills. No trace of establishments with suggestive names: Sailors Sunrise, Frisco, Irifune, Agua Caliente (literally hot water), Casanova, Nepa and Snug Harbor. The names of girlie bars today aren't half as interesting because they don't play with words or allusion.

The most popular and biggest establishment was the Mayon Refreshment Parlor mentioned earlier, followed by the Shanghai Bar on Dasmariñas between Calle Nueva and Rosario in Binondo. Drinks were so cheap that if "refreshment" was indeed the main source of revenue, it was not enough to pay the electric bill. My only question, because there are no pictures, is what did they look like inside? Then as now, the operators made much more than the hams because it was a pay-as-you-enter policy, and one needed at least P10 to "have fun" or "refreshment."

If I had more time on my hands, I would write the history of prostitution in the Philippines, having found literal proof that whorehouses are indeed meat markets.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Fear Factor

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN A CHILD INSISTS ON GOING somewhere you don't want her to?

In the Philippines, we threaten them with malevolent ghosts: "*Sige, sige, may multo*."

With very young children, the threat doesn't usually work because they have no concept of death, much less of ghosts. Very young children have few fears; maybe, some of you will even say they have no fears at all, whether of the supernatural—from the *aswang* to the Halloween ghouls—or of the more mundane, such as of the dark and of heights, or of crawling and climbing creatures. With time though, it's the adults who instill many of the fears, even phobias in children. And often enough, the fears are there not to teach the child to survive, but to control them.

Calibrated preemption

Which is an irony because the fearless infants and toddlers we see are, to a large extent, the products of natural selection. Nature wants children to be curious and adventurous, precisely to increase their chances of survival. It is through exploring and observing that children learn to live in the world. Nature isn't reckless here: children do have many natural reflexes to help protect themselves—early in life, they can grasp, hold on, flee, hide, even seek solace.

In many ways, children have been using calibrated preemptive responses long before our government thought up the phrase. When they're learning to walk, they'll fall, but that doesn't keep them from trying again and again. They know, "no pain, no gain," but they also figure out ways to minimize the pain, to prevent the mishaps. For example, have you noticed how toddlers have figured out how it's safer to climb down a flight of stairs, or get off a chair, backwards, while holding on to whatever's available?

Kids learn, early enough, to differentiate serious dangers from passing setbacks. They burn themselves on something hot and they'll usually avoid the object. But milder mishaps they take almost philosophically—except when we make a big issue out of it. If a kid stumbles, she'll call out, maybe whimper, but pick herself up and go her merry way; if we rush over and carry her, she'll figure out another calibrated response: "Ha, next time I should be more dramatic so I can get Papa Mike to carry me longer."

God and the dog

I'll confess I'm a worrywart myself but have developed my own calibrated preemptive responses. I'm picking up, learning when to call out a friendly warning and when to run (or should I say fly?) to the rescue when necessary, when to be firm and when to yield and to be consoling.

But one word I've learned not to use—and which I wish we'd banish from our child-rearing vocabulary—is "Hala!" Notice it doesn't even have an English equivalent? It's a warning, a threat and a rebuke all at once. But it's externally-directed, telling kids that if they misbehave, they'll be punished by the policeman, by God, or even the dog.

The dog? Yup, I was at a home recently that had a small 1-year-old dog that was kept out in the garden. The dog was the friendliest, most loving creature you could imagine, wagging its tail six thousand times a minute. The dog was trained not to jump on people, but could get excited and start barking as an invitation to play. That was when family members would tell the baby: "*Hala, hala, kakainin ka ng aso*" (The dog's going to eat you), a threat they'd repeat, with some variation, whenever the child was inside the house and wanted to go outside.

At her age, the child doesn't understand the warning about the baby-eating dog, but the ominous tone of her elders tells her the dog is dangerous. And why do they do this? You guessed it: to keep the child inside the house.

They have succeeded so far, the kid not daring to go out alone into the garden because she's afraid of the dog. In effect, the dog ends up being used to imprison the child, and the child could develop a phobia for dogs.

Another example: I'm amazed at how families try to force young children to make "*mano*" (bringing an elder's hand to their forehead in a sign of respect), and threatening them with "*Hala*, Lolo will get angry if you don't make *mano*." It's not respect they're instilling, but fear of the elderly.

Note, too, how *hala* actually reinforces the negative images of certain characters. Early in life, the child learns the policeman (or Lolo?) is there to punish. And in the same way we invoke the *aswang*, we threaten kids, *hala*, with people different from ourselves: the Bumbay (Indians), the Arabo, or even a fellow Filipino like the Moro. Among our cultural minority groups, children are threatened this way, too. Negrito parents tell their children they'll be taken away by the "straight-haired ones," for example.

So, *hala* doesn't just keep children from exploring their world. It also becomes a vehicle for discrimination, teaching the young to notice the difference in skin color or, worse, to fear even the invisible differences—such as religion—simply by telling them those "others" are "bad."

Conformity

All these child-rearing practices are to be expected because we're still hanging on to the requirements of an agricultural society—that of blind conformity and a fear of outsiders, of people different from ourselves.

Times are different now. Especially with the diaspora, Filipinos have to be equipped to roam the world, to adapt to different people and situations. And even if they don't end up working overseas, the times require us to be independent and innovative. To give just one example, notice how we tend to lack entrepreneurship, with a tendency to jump on the bandwagon, selling whatever is safely in vogue, even if it's already being sold by thousands of others.

But should that be surprising? Our child-rearing practices actually penalize creativity. One of my students told me how she tried to venture, just for fun, into soymilk-making. She searched high and low for the soybeans (they're not easy to find in the Philippines), and went through the whole tedious process with the beans: overnight soaking, removing the hulls, grinding, filtering and pasteurizing. When she proudly presented the soymilk to her mother, she got this response: "You'll probably get a stomach ache drinking that." There was no malice intended but even without the *hala!*, the message was clear: don't try anything new.

Child-rearing practices affect us in ways we often don't realize. Maybe, as a nation, we are all victims of our own overprotective and punitive child-rearing. Have we succeeded too well, producing a nation of conformists, behaving only when we think we're being watched, and apologizing if we misbehaved and got caught? Must the fear factor be so dominant, so that we now need to be pushed, prodded every step of the way, to be led by the nose by authoritarian leaders? Alas and *hala*!

God's chosen but afraid of her own shadow

I COULD HAVE OPTED TO SIT BACK AND RELAX and let go of this angst. I mean, why do I have to waste my time on this woman who doesn't want to let go? What difference could an ordinary Filipino like me do to convince our countrymen that there's no glory under Gloria? Besides, does my opinion really matter in a society that has grown tolerant to her indiscretions? It is frustrating to know that there are those who simply don't give a damn to what's happening. I don't blame the people though for their indifference. Evicting the squatter in Malacañang might only result in the creation of another monster. The perception is that both the status quo and the alternative are just mirror images of each other—the latter merely duplicating what the former has been doing. This unfortunately is what keeps GMA's sinking ship afloat.

Yes, I'm worried about this government's dictatorial tendencies, the latest of which is its so-called calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy in dealing with protest actions. Our cherished constitutional right to assemble has been reduced to a mere "no permit-no rally" privilege. Thus, no opposition rally will ever be legal because pro-GMA mayors will never grant them the permit to do so. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez asserts that this policy is in accordance with the rule of law. His absurd interpretation even went as far as threatening Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay with suspension if he continued to issue permits to demonstrators. Why is Ms Arroyo so afraid, so determined to silence legitimate dissent? Why is she afraid of her own shadow?

Gloria's allies must have forgotten that it was the collective action of the people and their desire for better governance that catapulted their boss to Malacañang. That it was the massive street protests that convinced the AFP then to withdraw its support from Erap. Ironically, such collective action she now views as a violation of the rule of law. She even brands her critics as nothing but putschists and obstructionists.

Interestingly, Ms Arroyo credits her survival to Divine intervention. She has often said that it was "God" who shielded her from all the accusations of the "evil" opposition. Moreover, Ms Arroyo likens herself to the prostitute about to be stoned to death by the Jews. Those without sin should cast the first stone, the Bible says. But it was not the prostitute but Jesus Himself who made the challenge. Jesus had the moral authority to do so. GMA doesn't. By invoking that biblical injunction, GMA implied that it is alright to lie, cheat or steal because everybody is doing it anyway.

Ms Arroyo says that she has St. Michael on her side. That's debatable. Or has she gone to canonizing either her controversial husband Mike Arroyo or her apologist Mike Defensor?

—ERWIN JAMES B. FABRIGA,
Waling-waling II, Punta, Ormoc City

Cheers for De Quiros

I'D LIKE TO COMMEND CONRADO DE QUIROS for his very brave opinions on the legitimacy of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency. He is exactly my voice and the voice of other people who do not have the means to shout out our disappointments with what has been happening in our country.

Wherever this feeling of discontent and anger will lead us, one thing I assure him, I'll be there. More power to De Quiros and keep firing!

—MAY CARO,
fish5115@yahoo.com

Against De Quiros (but not for GMA)

I USED TO READ WITH GREAT INTEREST THE columns of Conrado de Quiros. But they have become nauseating; all they contain are views against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

I'm not pro-Gloria, but I hope De Quiros will once again appreciate variety, not just limit his columns to GMA stories. There's the rub, De Quiros.

—MARLON ALCANTARA,
proton2kl@yahoo.com

What neutral military?

NOW WE CAN SEE CLEARLY. WE HAVE A MILitary which is not truly neutral but is leaning to the person of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan are heroes for coming out and confirming that there was cheating in the 2004 elections, in which some of their superiors allegedly played a key role.

The officers and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines must be insulated from partisanship so as to protect the sanctity of the ballot and right of suffrage of every citizen, among other reasons. This principle of law is violated by Executive Order No. 454 which effectively seeks to protect those in the military who have violated this principle.

The law allows members of the military to take shelter under a technicality. It rewards errant military people while punishing the good ones. It is another way of perpetuating a wrong done by persons in highest ranks of government, among them GMA.

—TERESITO CUSTODIA,
chitocustodia@yahoo.com

Prelude to martial law

ALTHOUGH MARTIAL LAW HAS YET TO BE declared, it is already upon us. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita confirmed this when he said that the government will enforce the "rule of calibrated preemptive response in lieu of the maximum tolerance" (PDI, 9/23/05) against militant groups and the opposition in rallies and demonstrations against the administration. CPR is reminiscent of the curtailment of the freedom of assembly during the Marcos era.

President Macapagal-Arroyo also showed restiveness before some 15,000 members of the League of Barangay during their regional meeting in Candaba, Pampanga and on nationwide television when she asserted her authority by declaring that *"Ipapadakip ko ang lahat ng gumugulo at mga manggugulo sa pamahalaan"* (I'll have all those making trouble for the government arrested).

This could be a prelude to the declaration of martial law.

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR.,
JP Rizal Street, Baranagay Camambugan,
Daet, Camarines Norte 4600

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MICHAEL AND BRENNAN (PINOY POP SUPERSTAR)
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Activity Area, 4pm

IZA CALZADO
ROBINSONS STARMILLS PAMPANGA
Activity Area, 4pm

RYZA CENON
ROBINSONS PLACE STA ROSA
Fountain Area, 5pm

OCT 15

BANDS C/O MAGIC 89.9 FOR EASTWING ANNIVERSARY
ROBINSONS GALLERIA
Fountain Area, 4pm

MISS EARTH 2005
ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA
Orosa Atrium, 4pm

CUESHE
ROBINSONS METROEAST
Fountain Area, 4pm

ISABEL OLI (SUGO)
ROBINSONS PLACE NOVALICHES
Activity Area, 4pm

PINOY BIG BROTHER
ROBINSONS PLACE IMUS
Fountain Area, 4pm

BEST FOODS
Magandang Umaga Mall Tour featuring WHONG NAVARRO
ROBINSONS PLACE ANGELES
Activity Area, 4pm

OCT 16

BANDS C/O MAGIC 89.9 FOR EASTWING ANNIVERSARY
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Fountain Area, 4pm

CUESHE
ROBINSONS PLACE IMUS
Fountain Area, 4pm

NADINE SAMONTE
ROBINSONS PLACE STA ROSA
Fountain Area, 4pm

STAR IN A MILLION
ROBINSONS PLACE LIPA
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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Early Pinoys in US came from Ilocos

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

THE PATRIARCH OF THE NEW ORLEANS Pinoys, the first Filipinos to settle in mainland United States, may not be a "Manilaman" but an Ilocano.

"Manilamen" or "Filipino Cajuns" were the terms used for Filipino crewmembers of a Manila galleon in the 1760s who escaped and settled in the bayous in what is now New Orleans. These Filipinos were regarded as the first Asians to immigrate in continental US.

Marina Espina, a trustee of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) and a former associate librarian of the Earl K. Long Library of the University of New Orleans, was the first to bring to the fore this unknown history.

Unfortunately, the documents on Espina's research on the Manilamen were destroyed by floods caused by Hurricane Katrina that devastated New Orleans last month.

But interest on the "Manilamen" has been revived.

Nestor Palugod Enriquez, also a trustee of the FANHS, said the New Orleans Pinoys came from another route.

Seafarers

"The Madriaga line and the later immigrants, however, were seafarers from the passenger ship in the Atlantic. The route from Liverpool to New Orleans started with the slave ship from Africa and reached its peak with the big Irish immigration. It charted the meeting of Felipe and Bridgett," he said.

"Felipe" and "Bridgett" were Felipe Madriaga and Bridgett Nugent, whom Enriquez described as the "first recorded Filipino-American generation."

The arrival of the Madriagas and company came around 1840. These were the men who made the Manila village.

"By the late 19th century, people from the Philippines were sometimes known as 'Manilamen.' I reviewed British census from that era and we were listed as from 'Manilla,'" Enriquez said.

"The Manila village of New Orleans was not named as such because the men were from Manila. Most of the New Orleans pioneers were actually Visayan," he said.

An Ilocano

But he had reason to believe that Felipe Madriaga was an Ilocano.

Enriquez sent an old photo of the Madriagas and written on its back was a passage that said Felipe was from the Ilocos.

Lawyer Rodel Rodis, also a FANHS member, had this to say about the Madriagas: "Felipe Madriaga was born in 1803 in the Philippines and was a seaman in Europe when he met and fell in love with an Irish passenger on a ship bound for America. Madriaga and Bridgett Nugent were married some time in the 1850s and settled in New Orleans where they opened a Filipino restaurant, which catered to the Spanish West Indian and Filipino sailors who would dock in New Orleans."

"His three daughters married Filipino sailors, one of whom, Baltic Borabod from Bohol, later became an overseer at a Louisiana plantation. Another Filipino son-in-law from Capiz later became captain of his own fishing fleet," Rodis said.

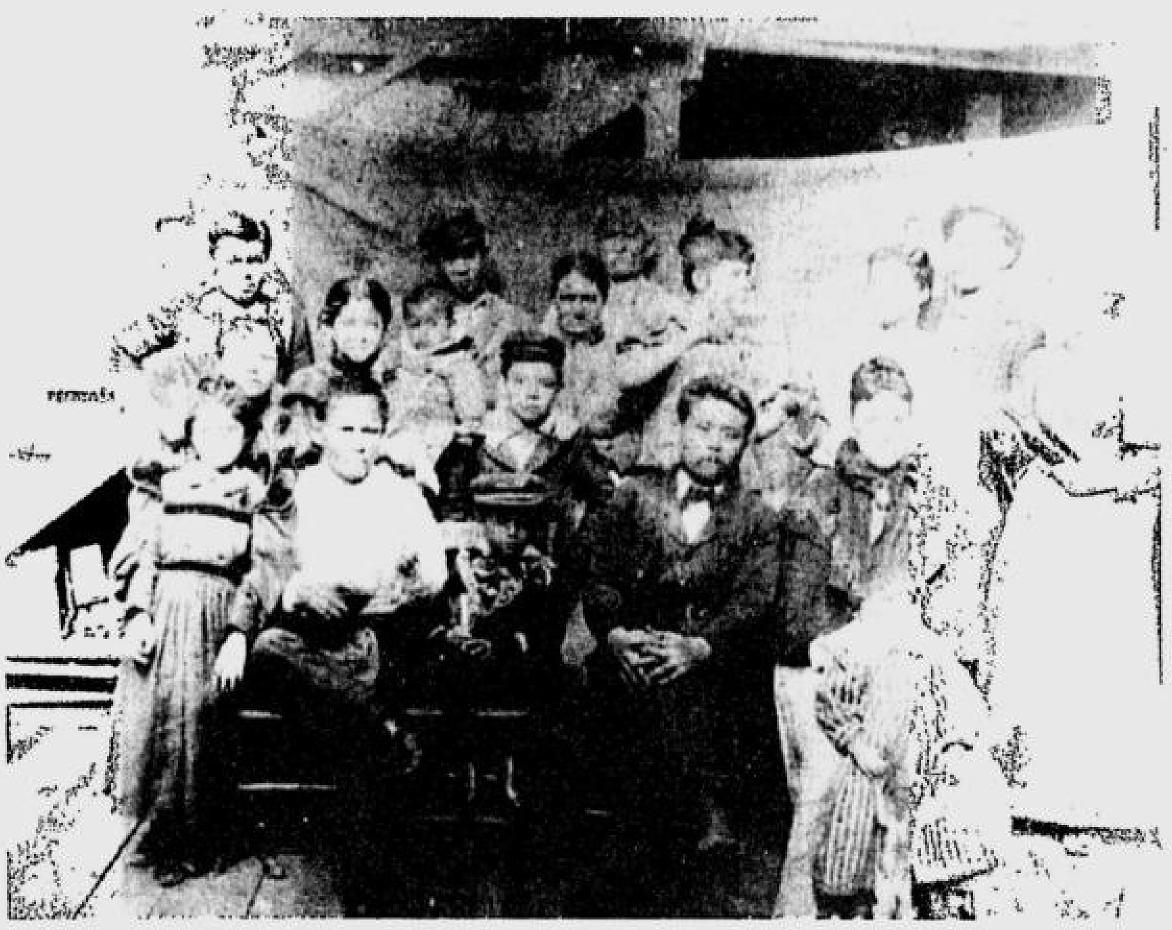
Storm

Although they were able to buy plots in St. Vincent Parish Cemetery in New Orleans, the Madriaga couple was buried in a nearby parish (barangays are known as parishes in New Orleans).

Enriquez said the cemetery was hit by a storm and many of the coffins, including probably those of the couple, were washed into the river and out to the sea.

He said the Madriagas, now in its eighth generation, did not bear a son so there was no one who carried the family surname.

The Madriagas' photo showed the elderly Madriagas and the second and third generations. One of the grandchildren was Rosie Borabod, the great grandmother of Rhonda Burtanog Fox, who held the original of the photo.


THE MADRIAGAS, whose patriarch Felipe (top row, third from left; his wife Bridgett in front of him) came from the Ilocos, in a photograph taken 100 years ago. PHOTO COURTESY OF NESTOR ENRIQUEZ OF FANHS

Ancestors

Fox, a sixth generation Madriaga, worked for the St. Bernard Parish School and was evacuated from New Orleans to Northern Louisiana, Enriquez said.

Fox, who describes herself as "the last flower child" in her blog (web log), has this to say about her heritage:

"In my mother's family, our male ancestors were Filipino seamen who found their way to Louisiana, liked it, and settled here. They left the sea, but they didn't leave the water. Our progenitor, Felipe Madriaga, was a mariner from Ilocos, North of the Philippines who fell in love with an Irish girl named Bridgett Nugent. She was a passenger, coming with her family to America, and he was a crewman on the ship."

"[Bridgett] was just a teenager, and [Felipe] was more than 10 years older, but I'm told he was a handsome and charming man, and she fell in love [with him]. On arrival at the Port of New Orleans, she informed her parents that she would not be going on to New York with them, and they left, distraught, never to speak to her again," Fox said.

"I have become my mother and her mother and her mother's mother, the daughters of seafarers and fishermen, who, in the absence of men, determined their fates for themselves."

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Terror alert up in Visayas, Mindanao

AUTHORITIES HAVE RAISED THE ALERT LEVEL for terrorism in ports and other strategic areas in the Visayas and Mindanao following reports that members of the terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah have entered the country.

Based on a report from Cebu City, the Philippine Coast Guard in Central and Eastern Visayas increased intelligence gathering after receiving reports of the planned smuggling into the country of weapons intended for terrorist groups and coming from Indonesia and Malaysia.

Indonesia and Malaysia are two Muslim neighbors of the Philippines. The suspects in the bombing in Bali were believed to be Indonesian members of the JI while Malaysia helps push peace negotiations between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Philippine government.

Sarangani Gov. Miguel Rene Dominguez said the provincial government, with the help of the private sector, has built a P4-million communication facility to help track down and report terrorist activities in G'lan town in Sarangani, as well as Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani towns in Davao del Sur.

He said there are about 4,000 unregistered and registered Indonesians in the two towns. These Indonesian nationals are either residents while others are engaged in barter.

Authorities in Metro Manila recently released the identities of three Indonesian nationals believed to be members of the JI.

The provinces of Sarangani and Davao del Sur two years ago formed a cooperation triangle named Jags-CT (Jose Abad Santos-Glan-Sarangani), which is also being promoted as the economic gateway to the Brunei-Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga).

"We promote Jags-CT because of our dream and ambition to create development in the island and not because of fear of the presence of terrorists," Dominguez said.

He said they were looking south for economic development by trading with Indonesia.

Sarangani town is three hours away by boat to Indonesia.

Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza said Jags-CT is being groomed to become a model for BIMP-Eaga and at the same time serve as "borders against terrorists."

"The cooperation that we are doing now on the ground is an example of how we can work together to counter terrorism," he said.

Dominguez also said the cooperation was working closely with the Philippine Navy in putting up measures to curb piracy which continues in the areas. *Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

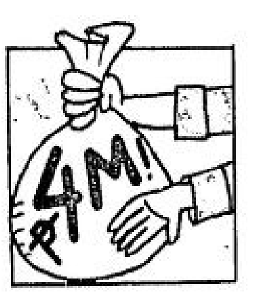
3 siblings drown

CEBU CITY—Three children drowned Oct. 2 after they were swept by strong currents of a swollen river in Sitio Dual-og, Barangay Poblacion, in Carmen town. They were identified as Mary Jane Banzon, 9, and younger siblings Rexter, 8 and Mark Louie, 6, residents of Sitio Tujob, Barangay Ipil, Carmen and pupils of Carmen Central School in Barangay Poblacion. Diolito Entero, Ipil village chief, said the children decided to go home and skip their afternoon classes after taking their lunch at their maternal grandmother's house in Barangay Birin, which is near their school. Entero said Mary Jane went down to the river to wash her lunch box but was swept instead by the strong current. Mark Louie tried to save her but the current carried him too. Rexter tried to help his siblings but the same thing happened to him, the village chief said. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Frat men face slay raps

CEBU CITY—A murder complaint was filed against three fraternity members for killing a member of a rival fraternity in front of his home in Barangay Sambag 2 on Oct. 3. Charged at the city prosecutor's office were Ritchie John Moreno, 21; Alexander Pala and Ivan Estrera, all members of the Alpha Kappa Rho (Akhro). They were accused of killing Kyle Kales Lomibao Capsa, 23, a Tau Gamma Phi member and a relative of Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao. Of the three, only Moreno was detained after he surrendered on Oct. 4. The police said Capsa had a fist fight with his cousin Tyke Philip Lomibao, an Akhro member, inside the victim's home at about 10 p.m. on Oct. 3. Lomibao later sought the help of Moreno, Estrera and Pala. A few minutes later, the three went to Capsa's house. When Capsa came out of the front door, Moreno allegedly shot the victim in the right chest.
Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Gun amnesty



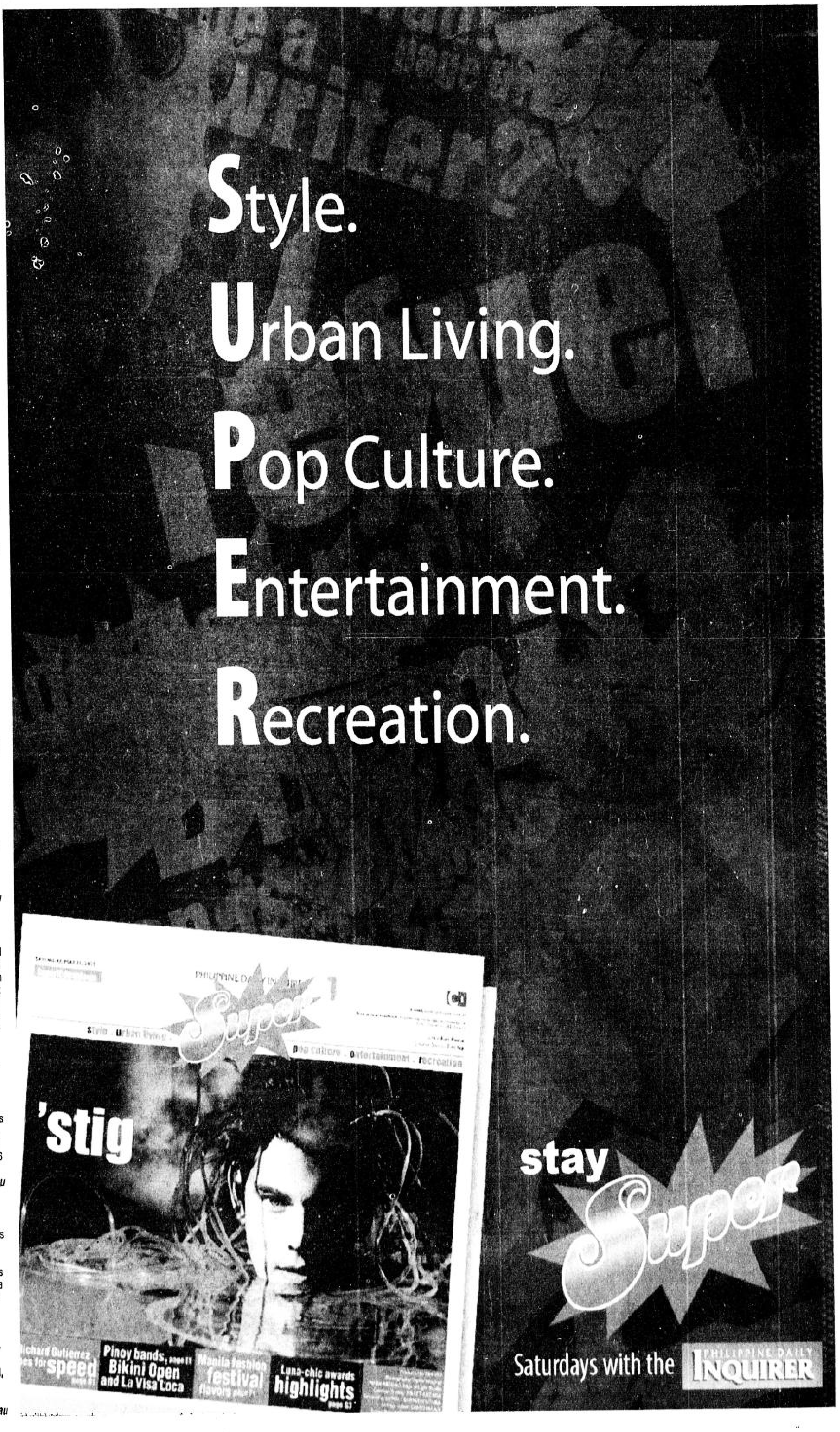
CEBU CITY—The Police Regional Office in Central Visayas (PRO-7) has earned over P4 million in this year's extension of the government's amnesty program for unauthorized gun holders, which ended on Sept. 30. The amount represented a 174 percent increase in revenues from gun permit fees generated in the same period last year when the amnesty was first implemented, said Supt. Rey Lyndon Lawas, regional chief of the Firearms, Explosives, Security Agency and Guard Supervisory Section (Fesagss). Lawas said about 100 applications were processed every day over the last two weeks of the amnesty program. Before the extension of the amnesty program was implemented in March, the Fesagss only had an average of 20 applicants per day, he said. Lawas said most applicants were professionals in the private and government sectors.
Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Environment awards

CITY OF CALAPAN—Puerto Galera and Roxas towns won in this year's Gawad Kapaligiran as cleanest and greenest municipalities for 1st to 3rd class municipalities and 4th to 6th class municipalities. Barangay Ranzo in Pinamalayan was declared the cleanest and greenest coastal barangay, while Barangay Pagala-gala, also in Pinamalayan, was judged the cleanest and greenest inland barangay. Tamaraw Falls in Barangay Villaflor, Puerto Galera again won as the cleanest inland body of water. The Gawad sa Kapaligiran evaluation team, composed of representatives from the different provincial offices, gave out 16 other minor awards this year.
Marciano Virola Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mindoreños in US

CITY OF CALAPAN—Oriental Mindoro Gov. Arnan Panaligan has asked Mindoreños in the United States to invest in Mindoro. Panaligan made the appeal when he visited the United States recently in response to an invitation from the Oriental Mindoreños Association of Southern California (Omasc) to be the guest speaker and inducting officer for its 12th year anniversary last Sept. 24. Counting thousands of Mindoreños working and living in the States as members, the Omasc has provided support to the province in the past by donating fire trucks and supplies and equipment for medical missions, helping build the Mangyan Pavilion at the provincial hospital, and supporting victims of super Typhoon Unding that hit the province last year.
Marciano Virola Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau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Saturdays with the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

₱21-B road project delayed by 4 months

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) acquisition problems have delayed by four months the construction of the Subic-Clark segment of the 93.7-km Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway project, an official of the project's Japanese contractor said.

"The delay has been about three to four months now but I'm afraid that if the [Bases Conversion Development Authority] cannot follow the [ROW] schedule, the delay will be longer," said an official of the Kajima Obayashi JFE Mitsubishi Joint Venture who spoke to the INQUIRER on condition of anonymity.

The source did not say how the delay would affect the 31-month work schedule or if the construction cost would increase as a result of the slowdown.

The government is building the road on a 41.93-billion yen loan (P21 billion) from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. The state-owned BCDA has put up 15 percent of that amount as counterpart funding.

The BCDA is tasked with buying ROW for the four-lane highway connecting the Subic Bay Freeport in Bataan and Zambales, Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga and Tarlac and the Luisita Industrial Park in Tarlac City.

Robert Gervacio, chief of the BCDA ROW department, said the delay has not been that long, as the Japanese official has described. But Gervacio said the BCDA was indeed hastening efforts to acquire the land.

"We have asked Kajima its priority areas. What I did is to organize teams to go to the problematic areas. We have been appraising [the value of the lands]," he said.

Of the 1,077 lots being bought to provide 60 meters of land at every stretch of the road, the BCDA has already used state powers to claim private property.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

LEONCIO BALBIN JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

SOLAR DRYER

It's palay harvest time in the city of Candon, Ilocos Sur and the city's streets again turn into open solar dryers.

Defensor says firm's logging stays suspended

DEFENSOR

DAVAO CITY—ENVIRONMENT Secretary Michael Defensor on Monday said the 19-year-old suspension of the logging operations of the Matuguina Integrated Wood Products Inc. (MIWPI) in Davao Oriental stays.

Matuguina operated on a 65,000-hectare area in the province until the suspension of its Timber License Agreement (TLA) on July 15, 1986 by then Natural Resources Minister Ernesto Maceda because of alleged poor performance in reforestation activities.

Earlier, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel asked Defensor to revoke the approval granted by Environment Undersecretary Ramon Paje for the transfer of Matuguina's timber concession to Top Life Lumber Co.

Pimentel expressed concern over the continuing destruction of the forest cover of Southern Mindanao, considered among the few remaining forested areas in the country.

But Defensor said he did not approve "any logging concession or the transfer of any concession in the area." Defensor said Matuguina's concession was not transferred to Top Life and that the company's operation remains suspended.

But a copy of his June 7 memorandum, which the INQUIRER obtained from the DENR Southern Mindanao regional office here, indicated that Defensor had indeed lifted the suspension order on Matuguina's operation.

In the said memorandum, Defensor said there was no factual and legal ground for the continued suspension of Matuguina's operation. Defensor's order came more than two months after Matuguina asked DENR to allow it to operate again.

Matuguina president Juan Correlo, in a March 23 letter, said the company was willing, capable and ready to undertake reforestation activities within the area covered by its TLA 354 "as well as to faithfully comply with the requirements necessary for the permanent lifting of the suspension."

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Transfer of Palawan meets new opponents

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—PALAWAN HEALTH workers have joined the mounting opposition against the transfer of Palawan to the Western Visayas region.

In a position paper submitted to Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon, the Palawan Provincial Health Team Office said it would be hard for Palawan residents to travel to Iloilo City, where most of the regional offices of Western Visayas are located, because there are no direct flights or boat trips.

More than 100 health workers signed the position paper.

They explained that most of the referrals they give to patients are sent to medical centers in Manila.

The regional offices of Mimaropa (Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan) are mostly located near Manila.

It will be recalled that President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Executive Order 439 transferring Palawan to Western Visayas but it was hit by local officials and residents for lack of consultation.

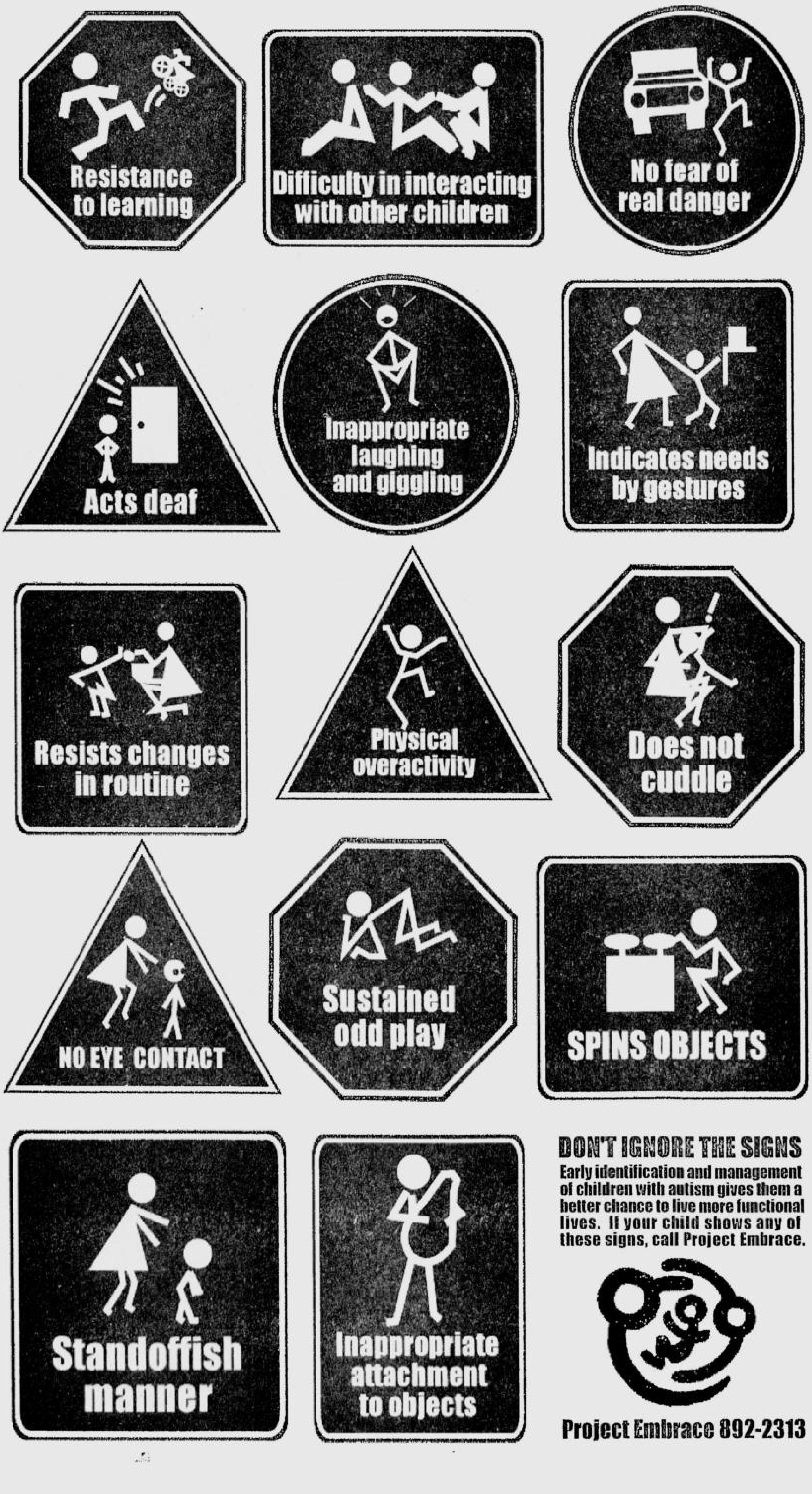
As a result, the President deferred the transfer to give the Department of Interior and Local Government the chance to consult the residents.

Recent consultations with municipalities revealed that residents prefer to stay with Mimaropa but a civil group called the Kilusan Love Malampaya is lobbying for a separate Palawan state.

The provincial government is also working, through an ordinance, for the Palawan Statehood Movement (PSM).

It was convened last week so that the results could reach the Consultative Commission, for consideration, before its deadline on Dec. 31.

Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



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Squatters big NorthRail problem

From page A1

an 80-km railway linking Metro Manila to San Fernando in La Union. Less than a year later, Canlas would lose his job as a Cabinet member and concurrent director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

Friends say Canlas became a casualty of NorthRail —that grand plan that architects hoped would spur economic growth in central and northern Luzon. Now a low-key economics professor at the University of the Philippines he would rather talk about the project than his lost job.

"Relocating the squatters lining the tracks would involve huge amounts that the government doesn't have," said Canlas, outlining the first major obstacle to be hurdled. Even the housing agencies that were being eyed to take charge of the relocation were penniless, he said.

Up to 200,000 people in 40,000 families live along the tracks of the defunct Philippine National Railways that are to be rehabilitated. Their relocation and resettlement is estimated to cost about P6 billion, Canlas pointed out.

Second is the legal risk, according to Canlas. At that time, the Bases Conversion Development Authority had not resolved the issue of the initial investments—around P300 million—put in by DM Consunji Inc, part of a private consortium involved in the project. *(More about this in a later series—Ed)*

Third was where to get the counterpart funding for the project. The government had considered lodging the project under the PNR, but it is bankrupt and lives on government handouts.

Romulo Neri, former head of the Congressional Budget Planning Office, replaced Canlas. Neda subsequently approved the project, which took off last year on a concessional loan from the Chinese government. Delays are already bloating the government's obligations.

The squatter problem that Canlas so feared remained. Tensions have turned squatter colonies along the railway lines into ticking time bombs—as a survey team dispatched by Malacañang found out early this year.

The team looked into the relocation plan for those affected by the first stage of the project—a 32.2 km-railway stretching from Caloocan to Malolos that was covered by the $503 million loan the Arroyo administration had taken from China.

Three market vendors, a laundry woman, a housewife and a leader of a farmers' group who were among those facing eviction were interviewed at random. Two major questions were asked: What do you think of this government? What do you think are the factors preventing Ms Arroyo from doing her job?

Desperate families

In a confidential report in May, the team said the residents unabashedly recounted all the government's perceived shortcomings. In addition, they poured their hearts out on a wide range of problems—from lack of job opportunities and facilities in the relocation sites to human rights abuses.

The team reported that the residents did not trust the relocation program now supervised by Vice President Noli de Castro. They said they still did not know where they would be sent packing. They were concerned the government would keep its promises of a better life.

"Families are desperate and have turned their anger against the President," the report said. Some residents were concerned that their local officials would either pocket the money earmarked for them or make money out of their misery.

Reply to the Palace team's questions were "lengthy and emotional", the report said. "All of these were critical of the government."

Because the contract awarded by the Arroyo administration to China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. (Group) (CNMEG) did not include funding for resettling the squatters, relocation became a government burden.

Around P5 billion from foreign loans was earmarked for the initiative.

Relocation began in May. Residents were given 30 days to dismantle their shanties after receiving a notice. It was to begin last November, but disagreements delayed the movements.

The squatters had been told at least 10 times by local officials and police that their houses would be demolished, each time disrupting their day-to-day activities.

"Apart from losing our homes, we are also losing our peace of mind," said a Marilao resident who called himself only as Alvin for fear of being denied the relocation benefits. "Nobody was talking to us clearly of their plans," he told the INQUIRER.

In May, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chaired by De Castro bared the relocation package: lots worth P100,000 each, housing materials, loan assistance of P50,000 and community facilities at the resettlement sites. It also includes grants of up to P12,500 for trucking, tents for the staging area and food allowance.

The caveat was, as another Valenzuela resident who identified himself only as Bonifacio A, those relocating would have to shell out P500 to be included in the list of those moving. No money, no entry, he was told.

Bonifacio cannot raise the amount. He had just been laid off from a handicraft company that had been severely affected by a log ban. He had to fight his way to the queue, only to be picked up and driven away by the security guards.

Some of them formed or joined urban poor groups to publicize their plight by staging demonstrations.

Common complaint

A common complaint was lack of transport, water and electricity, schools and other services in the relocation sites.

In Malabon, the National Housing Authority also offered another option: Avail of the "balik probinsiya" program (read: get P50,000, but pack your bag and go back to your respective provinces), or be relocated to the already developed Towerville site in Bulacan. Many squatters had rejected this site for being far from their workplaces, causing tension.

De Castro has denied that the settlers are being forced to move to the relocation sites without any facilities or services. "We are implementing an incremental development of the resettlement sites. We have already paved the roads, and other services like water and electricity will follow shortly," De Castro said.

Administration officials said they first sensed resistance to the project in the May 2004 elections. Ms Arroyo lost heavily in Caloocan and the five Bulacan towns to her rival, the late movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. Of the total Bulacan votes cast, Ms Arroyo got 237,080 against Poe's 505,164.

Things turn worse

"I don't see anything good about this government," said Alvin. "We are mad." He says when President Joseph Estrada was ousted in 2001, hopes were raised. "We thought things would turn for the better. It turned for the worse."

The Palace team that visited some of the residents validated the INQUIRER's observations.

The team recommended a series of actions, including strict monitoring of the relocation and government supervision of the transfer "from the time of the dismantling of their shanty to the time it is settled to the new site," the report said.

In August, De Castro announced that Ms Arroyo had approved a P25,000 additional subsidy to each relocated family. De Castro also engaged in a series of PR blitzes to woo the residents. In July, he stood as sponsor to the mass wedding of 95 couples at the historic Barasoin church in Malolos.

A single mother of five, Elsa Hilario, 35, expected Malacañang to get its way. "It' s hopeless," she said. "We don't own the land where we stay. We don't own anything."

She said the NorthRail might eventually give her family some livelihood, like selling food and cigarettes, near the stations here in Malolos.

"Who knows, the NorthRail project may bring us a message of hope, except that, to us, Ms Arroyo is not the right messenger," she said.

SC petitioned to . . .

From page A1

Neri, Economic and Development Authority Secretary Augusto Santos, NorthRail and CNMEG.

Representing the squatters were the Urban Poor for Action, Bulacan Urban Poor Federation, Kilusan ng Maralita sa Meycauayan and the Saug Informal Settlers Association.

The petitioners noted that the NorthRail project is being financed through a "tied loan" from China Export-Import Bank, which requires the bank to nominate the contractor for the project to be financed by the loan.

The arrangement, they said, was illegal because it was not among the alternative methods of procurement.

In February, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile questioned alleged onerous provisions of the deal with China and called for an investigation. The Senate committee of the whole, chaired by Senate President Franklin Drilon, opened the long-delayed hearing on Sept. 29, but top administration officials boycotted the meeting. This followed a ban on Congressional appearances imposed by Ms Arroyo.

Drilon himself had commissioned the UP Law Center study. Drilon cited anomalies in the NorthRail contract when he broke away from Ms Arroyo during the height of demands in July for her resignation for allegedly rigging last year's presidential election.

Vice President Noli de Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, said the relocation of squatters along the routes of the project would continue regardless of whether the contract was nullified or not. He said they were living in unsafe areas and would have to be moved anyway.

"Part of the HUDCC mission is to give the poorest of the poor a decent house where they will be safe. Whether the NorthRail contract is nullified or not, the relocation will continue," he told the INQUIRER in an interview.

De Castro appealed to his detractors not to link the relocation to allegations of irregularities in the contract.

Jose Cortez, North Luzon Railway Corp. president, had said questions on the contract were related to the botched impeachment attempt against Ms Arroyo.

Cortez pointed out that the Senate had already proven in its own investigation nine months ago that the project was legal and that separate committee hearings on the issue by the Senate and the House of Representatives had come to the same conclusion.

"All I can say is that this is really above board, there are no irregularities. The problem is it's being revived because of the impeachment," he said in a radio interview.

Linked to destabilization?

De Castro could not say whether the alleged irregularities in the contract were linked to destabilization attempts against the Arroyo administration.

"My name is being mentioned because I am in charge of the relocation project but I have nothing to do with the contract. As long as the government can explain that it is above board, I don't see any problem," De Castro said.

De Castro said it was the National Housing Authority which was leading the relocation, and that the money being used for the construction of relocated families' new houses in the relocation sites came from the national government.

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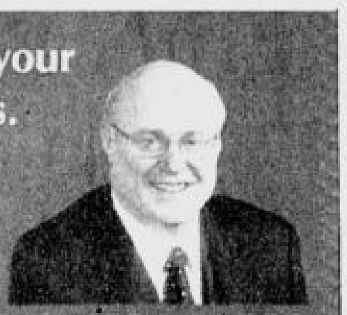

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FVR minces no words, says it's lot of B.S.

From page A1

destabilization, is doing a great disservice to our people at any time. But with reduced foreign investments and the declining economy at this time, this is all particularly damaging to the Filipino people and the Philippine nation. That's the truth of the matter," he said.

'Once is enough'

Ramos, who is credited with "saving" Ms Arroyo on July 8, the day when the calls for her resignation were loudest, expressed the belief that Filipinos would no longer accept martial law.

"Once is enough," he said, adding that the nation was protected from martial law by the 1987 Constitution.

On the controversial proclamation of emergency rule supposedly being prepared by the Arroyo administration, Ramos said it should not be a cause for great concern because it was like a preparation for a "worst-case scenario."

"Let's not worry about the draft because everybody is drafting something," he said. "But if it is put out as an official proclamation, instruction or order, [that's different]. A government has always to be ready to protect its security and its integrity, otherwise, it has no right being the government of a great nation like the Philippines."

'Sick and tired'

According to Trade Secretary Peter Favila, rumors of the government declaring a state of emergency and taking over vital industries in case the economic situation worsened were the least of businessmen's concerns.

"Believe you me, [businessmen] are really sick and tired of politics," Favila told reporters in Malacañang yesterday after joining Ms Arroyo in a roundtable discussion of positive developments in the economy.

Favila said businessmen were after the passage of only three measures—the antiterrorism and antismuggling bills and the bill on fiscal incentives.

He said businessmen would rather engage in making money.

"Kung may pera sa impiyerno, pupunta doon ang negosyante (If there's money to be made in hell, they'll go there)," he said.

Favila also said he delivered a speech yesterday at a mining conference that was attended by US Embassy officials.

He said his basic message to his audience was: "This is where the government is and this is where it is going. Don't wait for us; go with us."

After his speech, Favila said, a US Embassy official told him that this was the kind of talk that "should be heard by the business community."

On certain assumptions

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police, was evasive at a press briefing yesterday at Camp Crame when quizzed on whether the situation warranted a declaration of emergency rule or martial law.

Repeatedly pressed to point out the factors that would precipitate such a declaration, Bataoil would only say that the subject was better left to "appropriate committees" such as the Department of Justice.

But PNP Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, said the organization would support a declaration of emergency rule on certain assumptions.

"Yes, we will support it. We assume it would have basis in law," Querol said on the phone. "Also, [the national officials'] assessment is superior to our own because they have a broader and wider access to information."

Quoting news reports, Querol pointed out that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's draft proclamation on the possible government takeover of key industries had less to do with peace and order than with economics, a topic in which the PNP had little or no expertise.

Categorically asked if the PNP would support the declaration of martial law by Ms Arroyo, Bataoil said: "[We] will cross that bridge when we get there." *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Finance chief frowns on takeover of utilities

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCE SECRETARY MARgarito "Gary" Teves said yesterday he was not in favor of a proposal for the temporary government takeover of private utility firms, such as those in the power sector, as this might have adverse financial repercussions.

"As a general rule, government should be in sectors where the private sector does not want to come in," Teves told reporters. "I feel that this [the power sector] could be better handled by the private sector."

Teves said it was easy to say that the government would take over utility firms in the face of problems brought about by rising oil prices.

But he said it was difficult to imagine how a government suffering from fiscal problems would be able to run those firms without aggravating its budget difficulties.

"This is not just a question of a takeover, we have to go beyond that. We need to ask, 'What's the financial implication of a takeover?'"

Teves said the proposal for the government to take over such firms would run counter to the privatization policy it had adopted as a means to raise more revenues and revitalize its ailing fiscal sector.

Teves suggested that the government focus on improving its social functions.

Supporters of the takeover proposal said it would ease the impact of rising oil prices as it would curb the tendency of private firms to raise domestic prices.

'Emergency' jitters linger

From page A1

rize Ms Arroyo to take over key industries. But Gonzalez also said the conditions that would justify such a move had not arisen.

Deputy Majority Leader Antonio Cerilles called on the Palace to clarify the controversy and stressed that Congress should not be bypassed.

Some leading members of the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy also expressed concern.

Concerned about what EO 467 actually provides for, Cerilles (Zamboanga del Sur) and another administration lawmaker, Federico Sandoval II (Malabon), joined the opposition in challenging Malacañang to produce a copy of the presidential directive.

"The Palace should present a copy of the alleged EO 467 to let the public know its full contents. Without a copy of the draft, the 'no martial law' assurances of Secretary Gonzalez and the Palace will not be enough to douse fears that we could return to the darkest years of history," said Sandoval, vice chair of the House committee on transportation.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said Malacañang had a duty to be transparent at all times and added: "Show us a copy of the EO to allay people's fears."

Who knows GMA's mind?

A staunch presidential ally, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, said she would not be surprised if Ms Arroyo was contemplating taking extraordinary powers in the face of coup plots and street protests.

"We do not really know what is going through the President's mind. We cannot access the full range of the information she receives from day to day not only from intelligence sources but also from conversations with other world leaders, particularly in Southeast Asia," Santiago said.

Right of self-defense

"But I must hazard the guess that surely this has occupied some time in the President's mind, particularly since there has been so much loose talk about a coup, or marching in the streets and taking over or about forcing her to resign."

Santiago added: "If the President's perceived enemies are taking extra-constitutional measures, it's perfectly natural to expect that she will start contemplating extra-constitutional measures for self-defense.

She said any administration had built-in self-defense measures. "If she is attacked by force, the state is allowed to defend itself by force."

But other senators scoffed at Malacañang's emphatic denial that Ms Arroyo planned to assume emergency powers.

"Tell that to the Marines," opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said, adding that the Arroyo administration had perfected the art of "covering lies with more lies."

Slow descent to martial rule

"When Justice Secretary Gonzalez so clumsily bared on his desk an unnumbered proclamation regarding declaration of a state of emergency, that should tell us a lot," Lacson said, referring to an occasion at the justice department when reporters glimpsed a copy of the draft proclamation on Gonzalez's desk.

Some progressive groups warned the takeover of vital industries, including the media, was the only missing component in the nation's slow descent to martial rule.

Not buying the story

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said Ms Arroyo's order barring her subordinates from testifying at congressional inquiries, the breaking of demonstrations and political killings "are all major recipes of martial law."

In a privilege speech, Rep. Riza Hontiveros-Baraquel of Akbayan asked Congress to promptly conduct an inquiry into Malacañang's "national emergency plot."

"Is the President planning to declare a national emergency on her own? We in Akbayan dare the government to give an explicit answer to this question," she said.

Fr. Ben Moraleda, convenor of a new ecumenical alliance calling on Ms Arroyo to step down, said his group was not buying Gonzalez's claim that he had drafted the emergency proclamation on his own initiative.

"It's stupid," he told the INQUIRER.

Moraleda, a Redemptorist missionary, said his group "Sinag" was convinced Ms Arroyo had directed Gonzalez to prepare the draft to quash the persistent opposition to her administration.

Sinag is composed of around 20 organizations of Catholic priests, nuns and lay workers demanding Ms Arroyo's ouster. *With a report from Christian V. Esguerra*

Say Chiz: Cops disappoint gathering of 'destabilizers'

From page A1

ing to Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

At that time, political foes of President Macapagal-Arroyo were holding a party to celebrate the 36th birthday of House Minority Leader Francis Escudero.

But no police officer came, only Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia, who brought two roasted pigs and a birthday cake.

Talking to reporters, Binay, president of the United Opposition, joked that the guests and the birthday celebrator could have been sitting ducks had the police and military arrived to arrest them.

Among the guests at the Escudero residence in Project 6, Quezon City, were Binay, Susan Roces, former Senators Loren Legarda and Vicente Sotto III, Sen. Mar Roxas, Deputy House Speaker Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and Sen. Manuel Villar.

Other proimpeachment lawmakers and party-list representatives from different political shades also came.

Be vigilant

"Take precaution, be vigilant," Binay told young reporters in a hushed voice, adding that the media would be the first institution to be padlocked once Ms Arroyo declared martial rule.

The opposition claims Ms Arroyo is poised to impose martial law amid a sustained campaign to unseat her.

Asked if he was afraid of those who would come in the dead of the night, he said: "If I will be imprisoned for my beliefs, so be it."

To the same question, Roces, widow of the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., said: "Why should I be afraid? I didn't do anything wrong."

Roces did not want to comment on the political crisis, yet she could not help expressing the sentiments of the majority when asked by the media.

"I don't want to speak as if I know everything. I'm not a lawyer. But as a citizen, I and my friends, people I know, had bad experiences under martial law," she said.

"They're wondering, 'what's happening?' So it seems we don't know what is in store for us tomorrow."

Nobody knows

Asked whether Ms Arroyo would declare martial law to perpetuate herself in power, Roces said: "I don't know. Nobody knows. We don't have an influence on those who make such a declaration. So it's frightening."

She then admonished the media to report the news responsibly, saying, "If you feed the wrong information, people will panic."

Roces took up the cudgels for former President Corazon Aquino who, along with Senate President Franklin Drilon, had been linked to an alleged plot to kill Ms Arroyo.

"It's (not in her) character," she said of the widow of the martyred Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr.

Roces said people like her and Ms Aquino should not be blamed for going out into the streets to express their grievances because the administration had been closing legal avenues one after the other.

She was referring to the Supreme Court ruling junking the electoral protest filed by Poe against Ms Arroyo and the quashing by the House of Representatives of the impeachment complaints against the President.

Ms Arroyo has been accused of stealing the 2004 presidential election and of other illegal acts.

Roces said that unless all the issues were answered and joined, the street protests would continue.

She advised Filipinos to learn the "lessons of the past" by not repeating past mistakes so they could move forward.

Her message to Escudero: "Because of so many people who remembered his birthday, I can now see that he will be successful in whatever position he will run for in the future. It's because he knows how to love, so many love him in return. He's a sincere man. Happy birthday!"

Docs-turned-nurses still think, work like doctors

From page A1

longer working as physicians.

Instinctively, they had changed the orders given by the actual doctors on duty, or questioned, if not ignored, the directives given them, according to Dr. Fely Elegado-Lorenzo, director of the Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies at the UP National Institutes of Health.

Just two months ago, she said, two doctors were booted out of a Texas hospital for the transgressions. A similar case occurred in the United Kingdom two years ago.

"This is against the policies of the hospitals there," she said in a press briefing yesterday.

Lorenzo said health authorities were compiling cases of doctors-turned-nurses deported from abroad to get a clearer picture of the problem.

"So far, they belong to what we call the hidden population," she said. "But there are already trickles."

Couldn't help it

Ruth Padilla, president of the Philippine Nurses Association, mentioned another instance in Britain when a Filipino nurse performed "suturing" (or stitching) in an emergency situation.

That didn't sit well with doctors in the hospital simply because it was not his job as a nurse, she said.

"His being a doctor came out at that instance," she said. "Even if the doctor had the purest intention to save the life of that patient, the thing is you're not supposed to do that because you are employed on record as a nurse."

Padilla said the tendency of some doctors-turned-nurses was to do "medical management," not render "nursing care."

Flunkers

The difficulty among some doctors of adjusting to the nursing profession has also been reflected in nursing board exams. While they may be expected to breeze through the tests, some of them simply do not because the thrust of nursing is not exactly the same as that of medicine.

Forty out of some 800 doctors flunked the nursing licensure exam in June, according to Eufemia Octaviano, chair of the Board of Nursing.

She said the 800 doctors were among the 2,212 nonnursing graduates who took the test that time. The others included pilots, engineers and criminologists.

No more special program?

Partly to blame is the special program that has allowed physicians to jump into nursing with relative ease, experts said. The program requires them to complete just 1 1/2 to 2 years in a nursing program before they are allowed to take the nursing boards.

Lorenzo said there was a proposal to rescind this special provision for doctors through a memorandum order from the Commission on Higher Education. If approved, the suggestion will take effect next school year, she said.

"We're not saying that they won't be allowed to become nurses anymore," she explained. "If they want [to become one], they have to go through the [regular] four-year program."

Passing rate

But even the regular four-year nursing course has its deficiencies in many schools, health officials said.

Out of the 450 nursing schools in the country, Lorenzo said, many registered only between 0 and 30 percent passing rates in the board exams.

"If you enter these schools, your chances of passing the boards are only between 0 and 30 percent," she said. "There's a bigger probability that you'll fail."

Lorenzo did not identify any of the schools.

Two months ago, she said, these schools had been told by the Commission on Higher Education to "shape up or ship out" within two years.

The problem was that some politicians ostensibly operating some of these schools were blocking their closure, she said.

"In fact, they even barged into our office, angry because we were making their performance public."

"If we can't close them because of political opposition, [we will] get the public to bring their children to where the good schools are," she said.

So far, there are only 12 schools classified as "excellent-performing" [meaning, the passing rate is 90 percent and above] while 17 are deemed "high-performing [with a passing rate of 75 to 89 percent], she said.

12 top schools

Also, of the 450 schools, only 175 consistently graduated students in the last five years, she said.

"Nursing education is deteriorating," she said.

Lorenzo said the top 12 schools were:

- UP-Manila
- St. Paul College-Iloilo
- Siliman University
- West Visayas State University
- University of Santo Tomas
- St. Louis University
- Mindanao State University
- St. Paul College-Dumaguete
- Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila
- St. Mary's University of Bayombong
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QC wants 4 new districts, with or without Cha-cha

By DJ Yap

QUEZON CITY IS BATTING FOR FOUR more congressional districts so it could have a more proportionate representation in the House of Representatives.

The city government has been planning to push for additional districts in Metro Manila's biggest city "for a long time," Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista said yesterday.

Charter amendment

This is possible through a constitutional amendment, he told the INQUIRER. Should the government succeed in amending the 1987 Charter, Quezon City would propose a minimum of two and a maximum of four more congressional districts, he said.

The city started planning the creation of additional districts since talks of Charter change began.

Congressional maneuver

But even if Charter change does not push through, the city would still seek Congress' help on the proposal through its representatives in 2007 or 2008, Bautista said.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said the city "needed" more districts, considering its vast size and growing population.

Quezon City has a population of 2.4 million, with four districts and four representatives. Manila, a city of 1.8 million people, has six congressional districts, the mayor noted.

Bautista said the additional districts would mean more funds for the city through the congressional allocation for representatives.

But more than that, he said the city would have proper representation in Congress.

Consultations underway

He added that the city government was consulting urban planners and other experts about the best way to divide the city with the proposed new districts.

Bautista said the city deserved the additional districts, having contributed much to the nation's coffers as, arguably, Metro Manila's richest city.

However, Belmonte said he was not too hopeful about the plan, since there could be too much politics involved.

Even so, the mayor stressed that the creation of four more congressional districts for the city was not a matter of want but of necessity.

Lotto winner missing after claiming prize

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A RICE MILL WORKER AND HIS FAMily were allegedly kidnapped by neighbors after he won P39 million in the lottery last month.

The victims' grandfather, Francisco Hernandez, 70, of Sta. Maria, Bulacan, yesterday sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in recovering his grandson-in-law, granddaughter and their two children.

According to Hernandez, his grandson-in-law (name withheld) won the jackpot prize in the 6/42 lotto last Sept. 13. The victim later claimed the prize from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office with the "help" of his neighbors led by Danilo Joaquin who lived in a compound in Norzagaray, Bulacan, he said.

Hernandez added that his grandson-in-law and his family disappeared with the suspects last Sept. 29. Witnesses told NBI agents the victims were forcibly taken by Joaquin and at least six other men.

"Danilo and their other neighbors duped my grandson-in-law into giving them money for various luxuries, then took him, his wife and children," Hernandez said, adding that the suspects initially denied the abduction.

One of the suspects said they even accompanied the lotto winner when he bought a ticket to his hometown in Bicol.

Hernandez, however, stressed that the rice mill worker, an orphan, came to Bulacan at the age of 12.

"He does not have a family to return to in the province anymore," Hernandez said.

Appropriate charges will be filed against Joaquin, his sister-in-law Mary Ann Aldaba and relative Nestor Joaquin, the group's lawyer Leopoldo Sta. Maria, and several other still unidentified suspects, according to the NBI.

Muslim detainees seek concessions

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A SPECIAL REQUEST.

Muslims detained in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, have a "special request for a special occasion."

The 109 detainees have written Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide to allow them to observe rituals related to Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting and prayer.

In their letter sent through Muslim party-list group Suara Bangsamoro and the Free Basilan73 Movement, the detainees said they were currently unable to hold community prayers and interaction.

"As Islam believers, we have to observe community prayer, especially on Fridays and during our observance of Ramadan," the detainees' letter said.

Listening to Koranic teachings and messages from their religious leaders were also important practices during the period, they added.

Muslim detainess had been stopped from holding assemblies after a failed jailbreak and siege that killed 22 alleged Abu Sayyaf members in March this year, May Vargas, Suara Bangsamoro information officer said.

The detainees also appealed to the chief justice to allow them to cook their own food since they were required to fast from dawn until dusk.

"We can only take our meals at 3 a.m. and 6 p.m." their letter said.

Ramadan prohibits them from taking food or even a small amount of water during the day.

In their letter, they also complained of poor conditions in the jail.

They said that they were being denied the opportunity to get some sun and were provided with unlabeled medicine that often caused dizziness and stomach ache.

After the failed jailbreak, they were no longer allowed to use sleeping mats and insect repellents, the prisoners added.

Their water and food rations were also allegedly too little and poorly prepared.

"We are only fed twice a day with one and half cup of rice per meal, and two pieces of small fish," the letter said.

The rice served to them had a "terrible" smell and the fish, usually "tamban," was "rotten" and caused itchiness in their mouths and throats, they claimed.

"Justice Davide, we are not hardened criminals," they stated in the letter, adding that they have yet to be convicted.

The Muslim inmates arrested in July 2001 had been linked to kidnapping cases in Palawan and Basilan and bombings in Mindanao.

Singer Bublé back 3rd time around

By Nikko Dizon

"YOU GUYS ROCK AND YOU'RE sexy."

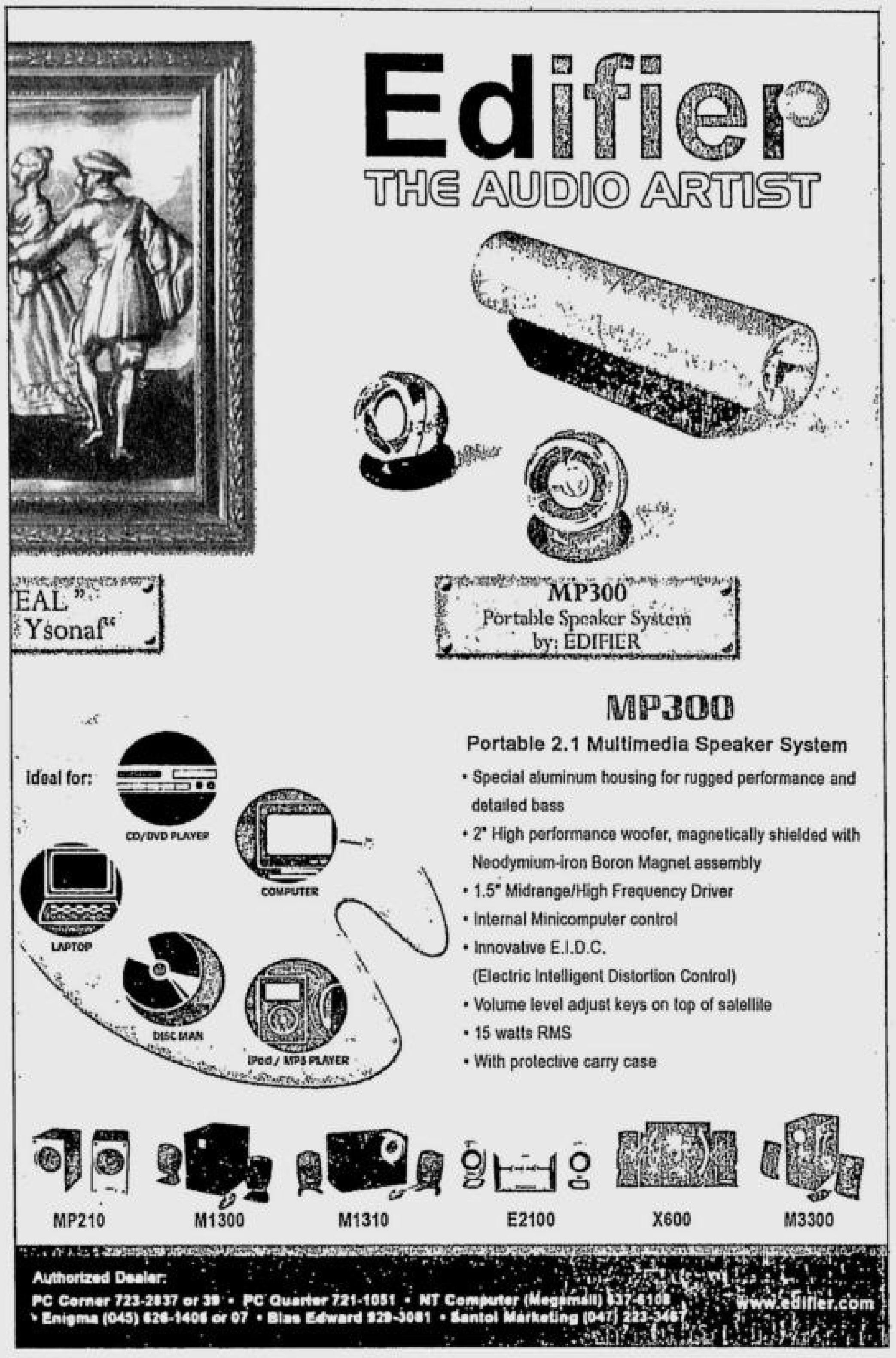
This was how popular Canadian balladeer, Michael Bublé, in Manila for a live concert tonight at the Araneta Center, described his Filipino fans upon his arrival with his band from Sydney yesterday afternoon at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

"It's always a pleasure to be back and I look forward to tonight's show," the amiable singer told the INQUIRER.

This is Bublé's third visit to Manila . The crooner was the star of two successful concerts in the Metro in January 2004 and September 2003.

With his silky, soothing voice, Bublé has reinterpreted popular classics such as "Come Fly with Me," "Fever," "How Can You Mend a Broken Heart," "My Funny Valentine," and "Put Your Head on My Shoulder." A press statement described Bublé as "a GenX-er with the soul of a swing-era crooner."

For his concert tonight, Bublé will be backed up by a 12-member band. He is expected to perform a new repertoire, with songs from his latest CD and some of his hits. "Michael Bublé–World Tour 2005" is presented by Smart Simply Amazing, Rado and Joey 92.3 and co-presented by Sunlife Financial, Siematic, Sub-Zero, Starbucks, PLDT myDSL, and Philippine Airlines.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METRO BRIEFS

Elephant tusks seized

CUSTOMS officers confiscated yesterday 857 kilos of elephant tusks from Kenya at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora has enforced a worldwide ban on the ivory trade. The Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau said it dit not approve the importation of the tusks worth P60 million. ***Nikko Dizon and Blanche Rivera***

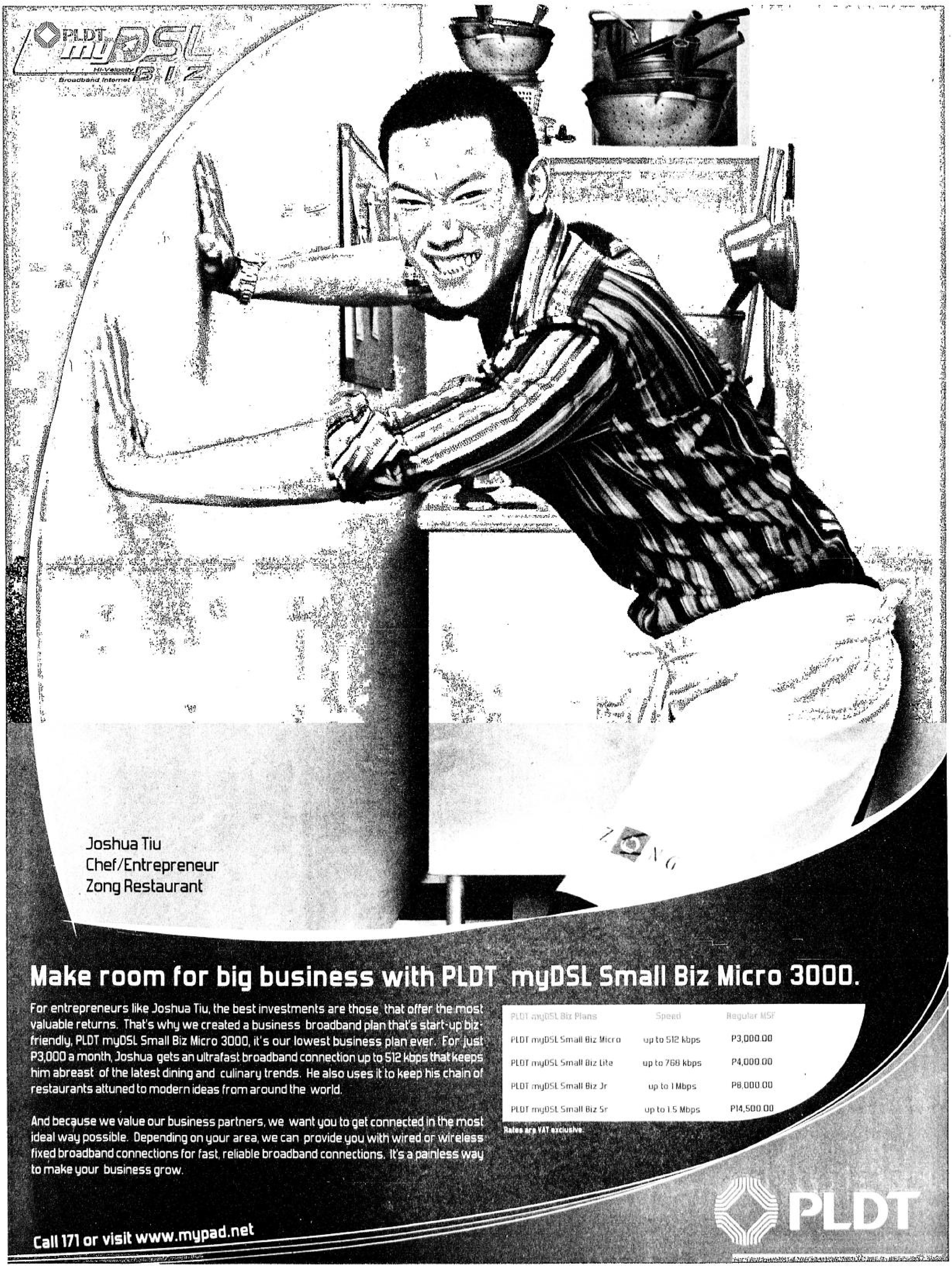
At last, new tickets

METRO Rail Transit (MRT 3) general manager Roberto Lastimoso said 700,000 new electronic passes would be arriving on Oct. 20 to ease a lingering ticket shortage. These will be circulated the next day. In July, MRT 3 phased out the tickets marked with the face of President Estrada. Chaos ensued and forced MRT 3 to cut old tickets and use these as manual passes. ***Clarissa S. Batino***

HAAAY Salamat!

2 Chinese meted death

TWO CHINESE men were meted the death penalty yesterday in Caloocan City for selling more than a kilo of shabu in 2001. Leman Ang Chua and Shangwei Lu were found guilty by Judge Victorino S. Alvaro. National Bureau of Investigation agents arrested the duo inside Leman's apartment on M.H. del Pilar Street, Caloocan City during a buy-bust operation. ***Nancy C. Carvajal***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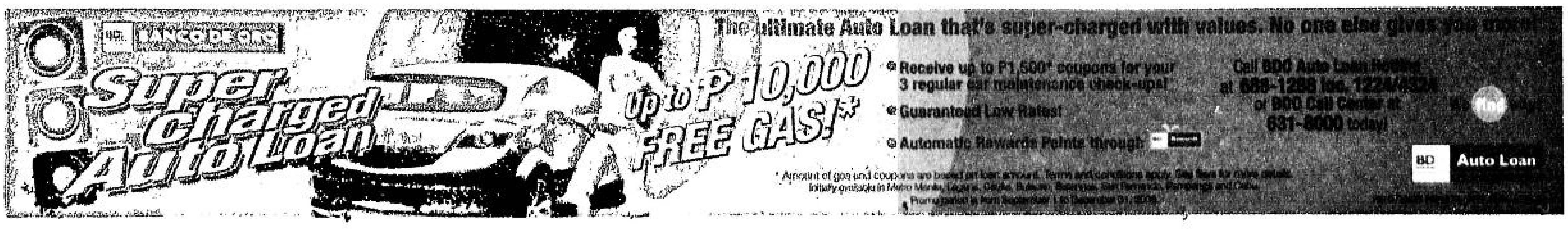

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

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BASKETBALL: NBA Pre-Season – Cavs vs Celtics; 7:30 a.m. (r-6 p.m.); Solar Sports – New-look Cleveland clashes with a young Boston squad.
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Archers offer to forfeit 2004 title

La Salle finds own cager ineligible, accepts responsibility to UAAP board

THE TITLE that made Franz Pumaren and former King Archer Mac Cardona champs anew may be gone due to a technicality. PDI PHOTO

By Jasmine W. Payo

PUTTING SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY AHEAD OF varsity glory, De La Salle University said it is willing to forfeit its 2004 UAAP men's basketball crown after admitting yesterday it had been unknowingly fielding an ineligible player in the last three years.

In a statement released by the office of executive vice president Dr. Carmelita Quebengco, La Salle acknowledged that the high school records of a player on its current roster "turned out to be spurious," and was therefore "neither eligible for admission to DLSU nor for participation as a member of DLSU's basketball team."

The statement added that La Salle is willing to accept any sanctions from the league "including returning the Season 67 championship trophy and forfeiting its second place position this season."

La Salle, however, did not disclose the cager's name.

"We were strongly advised by our legal counsel not to name the player," said Lito Tanjuatco, La Salle's representative to the UAAP Board.

"The school still has to find out who's culpable," added Tanjuatco. "In the event that the player is culpable, consequences have to be faced. But there could also be reasons that he's not culpable. We don't know yet."

Though unnamed, UAAP sources said the player was a key player in

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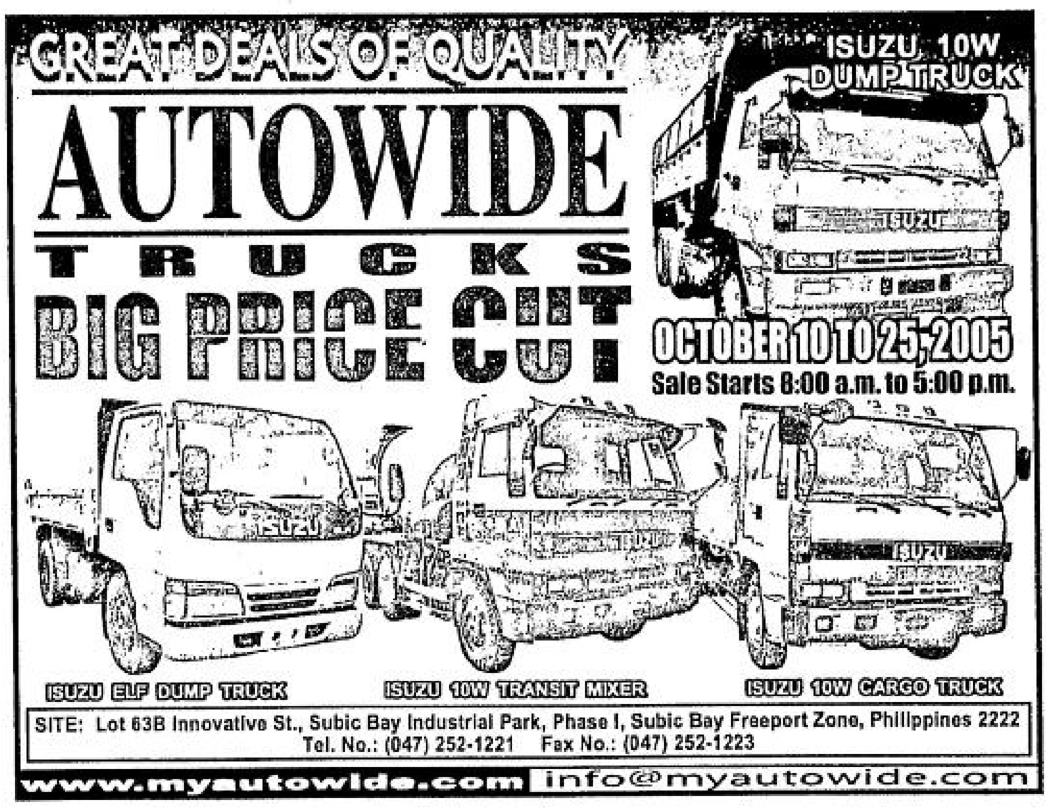

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15,000 troops, cops to secure SEAG

A SECURITY TASK force composed of 15,000 police and soldiers will be on duty to thwart terrorist attacks and other threats when the country hosts the 23rd Southeast Asian Games next month, the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee (Philsoc) said yesterday.

Authorities will not be leaving anything to chance when 5,000 athletes from 10 countries converge in Manila and several key areas amid reports that Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) bombers could carry out suicide bombings, they said.

"They will be chaperoned by security," whenever the athletes go to functions and events, said Philippine Olympic Committee head and Philsoc chair Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

"We are doing pretty well in terms of security," he told foreign correspondents, stressing that local intelligence officials will also be working closely with others from the region in the wake of the recent Bali bomb attacks that left at least 20 people dead.

Regional intelligence officials said they believe at least two ranking JI leaders have been hiding out in Mindanao.

Police Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, the Games security chief, said police units in areas outside Manila where there will be scheduled events have also been put on heightened alert.

"There will be 15,000 policemen and other force multipliers" from the armed forces, he said. *AFP*

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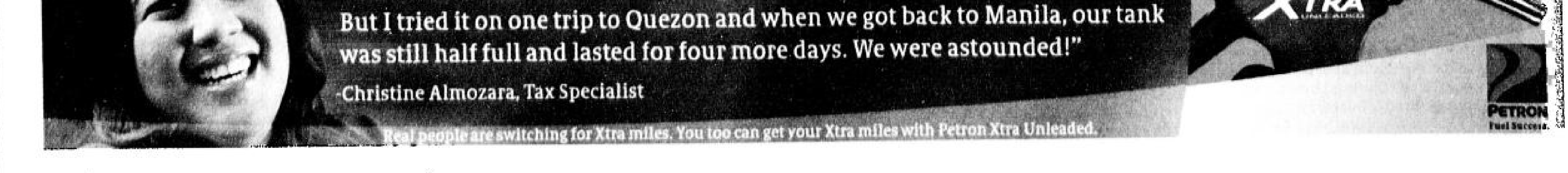

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Asistio keeps fiery form, stretches Samsung lead

TONTON ASISTIO CANNED THREE birdies coming in for a solid two-under-par 69 yesterday and stretched his lead to three shots over Michael Bibat halfway through the fourth leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour at The Riviera's Langer course in Silang, Cavite.

Asistio, the well-honed jungolfer who showed up the field with a 70 in the first round Monday, tamed the back of the hazard-laden, par-71 layout for nines of 36-33.

That gave the 16-year-old Asistio a 36-hole total of 139, three shots in front of Bibat, the former Singapore Amateur champion who beat Asistio last month to win the Baguio stop of this course-hopping series put up by top electronics firm Samsung.

Bibat turned in a 70 to be at 142.

Jay Bayron survived a double bogey off a stymie on No. 14 to salvage a 70 and stand two shots farther back at 144.

Veteran campaigner Tommy Manotoc bounced back from a mediocre 78 with a 73, but remained too far adrift at 151, in a tie with Anthony Fernando (75).

Former national amateur champion and DHL Open winner Jun Bernis failed to gain ground with a 75-152 in this four-day tournament sponsored by KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Sun Bolt, C-Lium Fiber, Rudy Project, Microtel and Solar Sports Plus.

The event, backed by Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT. 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee as media partners with the Philippine Airlines as official carrier, serves as the penultimate leg of the circuit culminating in the grand finals slated at the newly opened Summit Point Golf and Country Club in Lipa City.

Defending Samsung national champion Kim Chang-choi, hard-pressed to clinch a leg win to advance to the national finals set next year, squandered a 33 in the front nine with a double bogey-7 on No. 16. He shot a 71 and stood 14 strokes behind Asistio at 153.

Meanwhile, Crystal Superal dominated Class A of the ladies division, pooling rounds of 68-69 at the adjacent Couples course for a 137 to claim a 9-stroke victory over Lina de Guzman, who had a 146 after a 72.

Gilda Medestomas carded an 80, then nipped Beng Ibo in the playoff to win the Class B plum. Both players finished at 166 with Ibo forcing the sudden death with a 79. Elizabeth Salazar shot an 84 and a 171 to capture the Class C crown over Cora Fyfe, who turned in an 85 for a 174.

Tigers take on Beermen sans Hatfield

THE FANS are back in great numbers and league officials are hopeful the box-office trend will last through the season. ERNIE SARMIENTO

POCH JUINIO LEFT NO ROOM FOR SPECULATIONS ON WHETHER OR NOT Rudy Hatfield will finally suit up tonight for Coca-Cola.

GAMES TODAY
(Ynares Center)
4:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs San Miguel Beer
7:25 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Air21

"For sure, he won't play," said Juinio. "He's still in the [United] States."

San Miguel Beer can heave a sigh of relief.

The Beermen and the Tigers slug it out today with Hatfield's court comeback still pushed back by his being in the US to secure the documents that will make his reinstatement final.

The league is reviewing Hatfield's case after Malacañang reversed a Department of Justice ruling that declared the foreign-born cager as non-Filipino.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala was poised to make a decision on Hatfield yesterday, but even if he lifts the suspension, Coca-Cola coach Binky Favis said the 6-foot-3 forward's return will still rest on his ability to procure the needed documents required by the league.

"He still has a couple of pending requirements to satisfy," said Favis.

Still, the Tigers will bring a few roster adjustments into the court.

For one, Juinio, who was with Ali Peek when the latter signed up as a GNC product endorser, was finally taken off the injured list after fully resting a back injury. He replaces sophomore Carlo Sharma.

Ato Morano was also returned to the lineup after Dale Singson came down with chicken pox.

The Beermen, who lost their opening game to Talk 'N Text, won't see any roster improvement because Dorian Peña and Dondon Hontiveros are still doubtful starters due to injuries.

The Phone Pals aim to duplicate their victory over San Miguel Beer against the Air21 Express in the other game. Coach Bo Perasol steered the Express to a win over Purefoods Chunkee on his coaching debut.

"Air21 is a high-scoring, run-and-gun team like us," said Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal. "I hope we could match up with their speed."

June Navarro

282 big reasons why the PBA is upbeat

By Francis Ochoa

IT MAY BE TOO EARLY TO TELL, BUT the Philippine Basketball Association is showing signs of life—literally.

Banking on a mix of marketing strategy and the hype of better games, the PBA has jacked up its numbers as far as live audience is concerned and has nearly quadrupled its first-week draw compared to last year.

Gate receipts saw a 282 percent increase in live attendance from last year's first-week numbers. That means that for every one person who watched the games at the venues in the first week of the season last year, 3.8 watched this year.

After drawing more than 15,000 fans on opening day, the league capped the first week of its 31st season with a Sunday game that drew 13,477 fans. Even the weekday playdate at the Ynares Center in Antipolo drew a full house of 6,786 fans.

PBA gross sales of tickets have also increased by nearly 74 percent compared to last year's Fiesta Conference.

"I would like to thank the throngs of PBA fans who have embraced our Gimme 5 promo and the other activities of the PBA," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala, referring to a promotional tool that allows fans to watch the games live for P5. "It is truly gratifying to see their continued patronage."

Eala also noted that the games have also become doubly exciting as the players are admittedly more pumped up when playing before a large crowd.

Archers offer to forfeit 2004 UAAP crown

From page A25

La Salle's rotation in the last three years.

The statement noted that the Philippine Educational Placement Test Certificate of Rating (PEPTCR) submitted by the player "was not genuine, thus rendering him academically ineligible."

The PEPTCR is an exam a student may take "in lieu of, or in the absence of a high school diploma."

"We were surprised that this happened," said Tanjuatco, a member of the La Salle board of trustees and board of regents. "But the immediate reaction of La Salle's highest officials was that we should be transparent and come out in the open."

Coach Franz Pumaren, who steered the Archers' title run from 1998 to 2001 and in 2004, decided to keep mum on the issue.

"It is the call of the school," he said. "I don't want to comment on it yet. I only learned about it a couple of days ago."

But Pumaren noted that "we can't assume that it's one of the junior [third-year] players."

The player's case was uncovered after a local association of registrars nationwide expressed "serious concerns" that some of the "handcarried documents submitted by students for admission may be spurious."

La Salle said it acted on its "own initiative" by requesting the Department of Education to verify all the PEPTCR in its school records.

"[La Salle] will uphold the spirit of fair play and true sportsmanship and will never condone cheating in any form," added the statement.

The case adds to a series of unfortunate events for La Salle this season.

Two weeks ago, the league banned assistant team manager Manny Salgado for life after assaulting Arwind Santos, star of the newly crowned Far Eastern U Tamaraws in Game 1 of the Finals.

The Archers also filed two game protests against the University of the East Warriors, with one match ordered replayed at the end of the elimination round.

Petron nat'l age group taekwondo up Saturday

ABOUT 1,000 JINS ARE EXPECTED to vie for honors in the 2005 Petron national age group taekwondo championships on Oct. 15-16 at the Rizal Coliseum.

Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado said the event will highlight the progress of taekwondo here and give participants the chance to show different techniques and styles.

Competitions will be conducted in four divisions, namely, mid-juniors (male and female jins aged 13 and 14 years old) and grade school (boys and girls aged 12 and below)

PTA organizing committee chair Sung Chon Hong, the man mainly responsible for the tremendous growth and development of the sport in the country, said participants will come from various schools and gymnasiums affiliated with the taekwondo association.

Martial Arts enthusiasts and sports aficionados, especially children who are interested in the sport, are invited to watch starting 9 a.m.

The event is supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Petron, Samsung and Milo.

There is a greater interest in the taekwondo competition now since the Philippines will host the 23rd Southeast Asian Games from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

Rifa, Red Ribbon ink football pact

THE RIZAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (RIFA) and Red Ribbon Bakeshop have forged an alliance to further propagate the sport.

Rifa, which boasts the most number of grade school and high school footballers in the country today, recently granted Red Ribbon exclusive sponsorship rights to four Rifa Football Festivals, including its Under-15 league for boys.

The agreement was signed by Red Ribbon's VP for marketing Jorge Concepcion and Rifa president Mario Guison of Colegio San Agustin in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City.

This Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m, the Red Ribbon PFF-Rifa Football Festival will be staged at the Colegio San Agustin field. Bob Salvacion will be the tournament commissioner.

US pro league opens door to Pinoys

FILIPINOS MAY SOON BE ABLE TO PLAY IN AN American professional basketball league.

The San Jose Skyrockets recently contacted the United Regional Basketball League (URBL) to help conduct a tryout for Filipinos wanting to join the expansion team on its debut in the 2005-2006 season of the American Basketball Association this November.

The tryout will be staged on Saturday and is by invitation only. Interested players may call the URBL Secretariat at +63922839-8726 or by sending an email to urbl@yahoo.com.

The Skyrockets team president Kazumi Hasegawa has given the go signal for Skyrockets head coach Marc Joffe and his coaching staff to fly to Manila and supervise the activity.

A Bobby with a heart bigger than his punches

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(FULFILLMENT: End of the Game, the masterpiece that shines in faithful, sunny hues over 20 other frames now on display at the Heritage Gallery of the SM MegaMall in Mandaluyong, is a misnomer. It's actually the Start of the Game for the featured artist, Sonny Yñiguez, who finally, steps into the big league with his latest show. Sonny, often smiling shyly in the fringes, is not the sort who would sell or advertise his works, although he has always performed on canvas a deep kinship with the great outdoors, mainly the throbbing fibers of wild life. Nothing fancy whatsoever, as Yñiguez now achieves fulfillment in a no-frills evocation of a lifetime passion. Hail!)

* * *

YOU really want to know the secret why Bobby Pacquiao won that close, rugged fight against the favored Carlos "Famoso" Hernandez in Las Vegas on Sunday?

It's not actually a secret. It's also not very simple.

In fact, many fans who felt Bobby Pacquiao had been the beneficiary of dubious scoring may disagree with this observation.

Here: The younger brother of Manny Pacquiao was declared the winner by split decision because he happens to own a heart that's a lot bigger than his punches.

* * *

Ooops. Sorry about that. The big, heroic heart is genuine. But this should mark the last time we would be principally addressing Bobby as the younger brod of Manny Pacquiao.

Bobby, by virtue of that unclear but gutsy win over the grizzled, highly favored Hernandez, has definitely become his own man.

OK. Manny, the more fabulous of the fighting Pacquiao brothers, was indeed there to holler out instructions, mainly in the fiery finishing rounds, to inspire and keep poor, battered Bobby on his feet.

Manny may have indeed worked the magic from the corner.

But it was Bobby who had to absorb and digest all the murderous blows to the body that only the bravest and toughest in the boxing business could've survived.

* * *

Doesn't he (Bobby) have a name of his own? wondered a lovely girl around the MegaMall Artwalk area Monday evening.

The maiden was with a fellow who introduced himself as Roland Guevarra, an INQUIRER fan and a guest in Sonny Yñiguez's art show opening at the Heritage Gallery.

Despite the sweet intention, the question stung like a sharp jab.

It was just too bad that, the morning after the brave but close points victory in dazzling Las Vegas, most, if not all, sports section banner heads failed to honor Bobby by referring to him in his baptismal name. He was called Manny's younger brod.

* * *

Naturally, we had to offer our apologies, thereby assuring her that Bobby Pacquiao will henceforth get his due—win or lose.

Meanwhile, this should be one rare time when we could savor this hilarious side of boxing that had victimized enough Filipino campaigners abroad.

A lot of Pinoy tears had also been spilled over this thing notoriously called hometown decision.

Friends and fans of Famoso may've indeed felt robbed, jilted.

But, in Bobby's case, it cannot be said that he did not fight good and strong enough to gain the nod of the two judges.

* * *

Several critics and one of the three judges could be right.

Famoso may've landed more punches.

But how did he look after the final bell?

Exactly like the big loser, as he sported lumps as big as apples over his eyebrows.

Bobby Pacquiao, hail him, did not only land the bigger blows.

He definitely was intact. He did not look a bit the loser when the final bell rang.

He also happens to own a heart bigger than all of GenSan.

SPORTSWATCH

ICE PRINCESS

Ice skater Angelica P. Elmido shows the four gold and three bronze medals she bagged in seven events in the 2005 ISI World Recreational Team Championships held in Los Angeles, California, recently. Elmido's feat powered the Philippine team to second place overall in the 118-team field. Trained by SM ISR senior coach Edward Bungalon, the 12-year-old student at Saint Ruiz Montessori School is supported by Pagcor chair Efraim C. Genuino and officials of the Sta. Rosa City government.

70-plus fights in Gentlemen Cockers meet

MORE THAN 70 FIGHTS ARE ON TAP WHEN THE FIFTH LEG OF THE GENTLEMEN Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-stag derby kicks off starting at 5 p.m. today at the San Juan Coliseum. Derby sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Fielding their prized gamebirds are Patrick Antonio, winner of fourth GCAP derby last week, Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina, Pol Estrellado, Benjie Lim, the Jingco Brothers, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Sonny Lagon, Gerry Ramos, Boy de Roca, Dicky Lim, Rep. Butch Pichay, among others. The GCAP's Stagfighter of the Year winner will be known on Nov. 4, when the six-leg series shifts to Pasay City Cockpit.

Makati Coliseum 5-stag derby today

EXCITING COCKFIGHTING ACTION RESUMES TODAY AT THE MAKATI COLISEUM, with the staging of another tough 5-stag derby featuring more than 70 fights. Competing today are prominent cockers and breeders from Pampanga, Bulacan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Negros Occidental and Davao, as well as members of cockers groups like PCAP and NCA. Derby hosts are Efren Canlas and Tony Marfori. Meanwhile, reigning World Slasher Cup champion Boy Marzo topped the PCAP 5-stag derby Monday night with his entry BM Bulalayaw (four wins-one draw). The runners-up (four wins each) were Pichay Spartan BB of Rey Briones and Rep. Butch Pichay and Fajinfer of Pepito Ngo, Jet Fernando and the Jingco Brothers.

Pennisi cleared?

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

LAST SATURDAY WHILE ON board the radio program "Usapang Sports" over dzME, a news bulletin from field reporter Gina Mape came through.

I was surprised because it concerned sports—basketball to be precise.

Gina reported that Fil-Australian cager Michael Pennisi of Red Bull "has been declared a Filipino citizen by the Court of Appeals, which means that he will be eligible to play in the PBA."

Pennisi, she said, is the son of Anita Quintos, a native of Panabingan, Nueva Ecija, and is married to a Filipina with whom he has two children.

What I don't understand is why there has been no formal announcement about this yet.

Meanwhile, commissioner Noli Eala has initiated a proposal granting amnesty to all suspended Fil-Ams and this document has been sent to all the governors for study. They are expected to make a decision when the board convenes this Thursday.

The only suspended Fil-Am players left are Ginebra's Eric Menk, Red Bull's Davonn Harp and Jon Ordonio and Coca-Cola's Rafi Reavis.

***

I received so many interesting e-mail, text messages and phone calls this week from sports fans and friends which I want to share with you. Hereunder are the feedback from our readers:

"*Bakit naman si* Jai Reyes of Ateneo *ang napiling* Rookie of the Year *ng* UAAP? *Dahil anak ni* Chot? (*Jai is Chot's nephew, not his son—BC*) *Mas maraming* deserving and I can name some of them: Zion Laterre of Ateneo, Dylan Ababou, Jojo Duncil of UST, Eder Saldua, Jonas Villanueva of FEU, BonBon Custodio, Mark Borboran, Elmer Espiritu of UE, and Axel Doruelo of UP, among many others. *Hindi ba* way way down *sa bandang* bottom *ng* statistical race si Jai? (*No. 68, according to scribe Malu Aquino—BC*)." —Teddy Reynoso

(*Ed's note: According to eligibility rules for Season 68, transferees from other colleges who are made to undergo residency are disqualified from the Rookie of the Year race. Of those in the list above, only Espiritu, the statistical leader among rookies, Ababou and Reyes were eligible for the award*).

***

"Calling the attention of the PBA television sportscasters. *Kasi, puro daldalan na lang sila at* analyses *kuno* during the coverage, *pero* actually, *nagkukuwentuhan lang sila* most of the time." —Dave Nitafan

"*Ang gusto naming malaman, sino yung* fellow-Atenean *na inagawan ng asawa nitong* Ateneo alumnus/former PBA team assistant. Better yet, who's the lady he ran away with." —N.B. (scribe)

"We should not condemn the Ateneo alumnus for his human frailty. We cannot blame him if he fell in love. *Kahit nga ako, nagkasala na ng ganito.* Actually I like this guy better than his older brother. *Mas mabait* and *mas magaling. Yung isa,* show biz personality *lang.*" —Doc F. Carrascoso

***

"Peping (Cojuangco) says 7 out of 9 PBA teams have expressed their willingness to join the new cage body. What do you know about this?" —Iggy D. (*An unimpeachable source reports that Cojuangco invited the PBA team owners to a dinner last Saturday. Only two showed up. The others sent their representatives. One owner was not invited—and I'm sure you know who it is—while one ballclub was not represented at all.* —BC)

"Did Go Teng Kok really resign from his POC post as special assistant to the president? Some scribes tried to squeeze the truth out of him during the press conference last Monday on the P50 million donation of Tanduay to the SEA Games but got nowhere.

GTK's lips were tightly sealed on this matter. He neither denied nor confirmed the report. One thing I must tell you, though, chummy-chummy *na siya ulit* with the POC officials. GTK didn't attend the presscon, but since he was just in the vicinity, *pinatawag siya nila* Peping (Cojuangco). *Pumunta naman agad.*" —Enrique G.

Angels oust Yankees

Set duel with White Sox for AL crown

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA—THE Los Angeles Angels rallied to clinch the American League Division Series with a 5-3 Game Five victory over the New York Yankees on Monday, winning a wild contest that saw both starting pitchers gone by the third inning.

The Angels battled back from a 2-0 deficit to score the go-ahead runs when two Yankees outfielders collided trying to catch a deep fly ball and then held on to take the best-of-five series by a 3-2 margin.

Despite losing Bartolo Colon after the first inning to an inflamed shoulder, the Angels set up a meeting with the Chicago White Sox in the American League Championship Series.

Game One of the best-of-seven series is in Chicago on Tuesday.

The Yankees began the season with baseball's biggest payroll and high expectations, but the early exit means they will not add to their record 26 World Series wins, with the title drought stretching back to 2000.

"I'm just terribly disappointed," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

"I don't remember being this disappointed because I wanted this very badly."

Los Angeles's 22-year-old rookie Ervin Santana, coming in to replace Colon and making his first ever playoff appearance, sparkled in relief after giving up two early runs to New York.

"Mixed in with that early inconsistency were flashes of brilliance that lit everybody's eyes up," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said.

Los Angeles took the lead for good in the second inning after Yankees outfielders Bubba Crosby and Gary Sheffield smashed into each other near the right field wall.

Angels left fielder Garret Anderson led off the inning with a solo home run. Catcher Bengie Molina followed with a single and two outs later, Steve Finley walked.

With two-on and two-out, Adam Kennedy hit a deep fly to the warning track where Crosby and Sheffield sprinted toward the wall but collided, allowing the ball to drop and two runs to score. *Reuters*

ANGELS Francisco Rodriguez and Bengie Molina celebrate their victory over the Yankees. AFP

TYSON Sy shows off his trophy to President Arroyo during a courtesy call. REY BANIQUET

Sy sets sights on AF3 title

YOUNG GUN TYSON SY, BRACING FOR HIS much-awaited showdown with Indonesian Ananda Mikola for the Asian Formula Three overall crown, yesterday expressed confidence he could deliver when the last two rounds of the series are held on Nov. 5-6 at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

"It's very possible to win the championship," Sy said. "My confidence was boosted by my two victories the last time in Indonesia."

The Speedtech Asia driver, who turned 18 only last Saturday, will go into the last two rounds with 101 points, 26 points behind Mikola, the Indon series leader who is coming over next month to try and accomplish what he failed to do in the last two rounds last month in his home track.

Mikola, of Fastron Racing with Threebond, needs just one more win—worth 20 points—in the last two races to clinch the crown. Even a couple of runner-up finishes—worth 30 points—will do the trick.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

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Race 2—1. Do It David 2. Dazzling Affair 3. Smiling Jaeda 4. Nureyev Heiress

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Race 4—1. Real Black 2. Gung Ho 3. Refreshing 4. Gorgeous Sand 5. Demolition Jack

Race 5—1. Pilgrim 2. Starlet 3. Kitana 4. Mandalay Bay

Race 6—1. Habagat 2. Valiant Queen 3. Gentleman's Lady 4. Native Talent

Race 7—1. Kaiphia 2. Kate Alessandra 2. Sweet Peanut 3. Silent Witness

Race 8—1. At All Cost 2. Sweet Felicity 3. House of Riches 4. Kim Possible 5. Casanova 6. Musikero

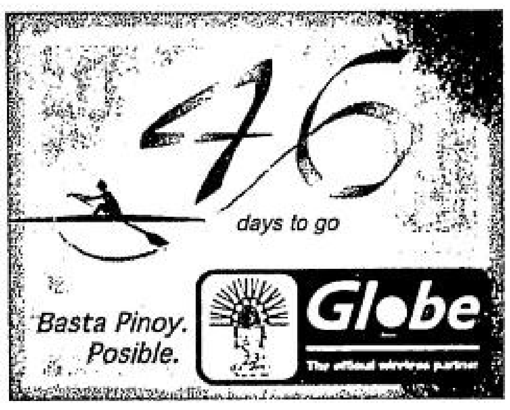
Tagaytay hosts Poker tilt

POKER CLUB OF THE PHILIPPINES president Ray "Butch" Gamboa announced that the fifth leg of the ongoing Poker King Challenge is set Nov. 5, at Casino Filipino, Tagaytay City.

Prize certificates with cash value of up to P60,000 await the leg champion.

The top three leg winners of the Tagaytay competition will join the other previous winners in the grand finals later this year.

Also at stake are trophies and gift items from sponsors Poker Club, Pagcor, Jack Daniels, Miller Beer, Bicycle Playing Cards/Star Paper, Hyatt Hotel and Casino, Ralph's Wine, and My Reviewer Online.



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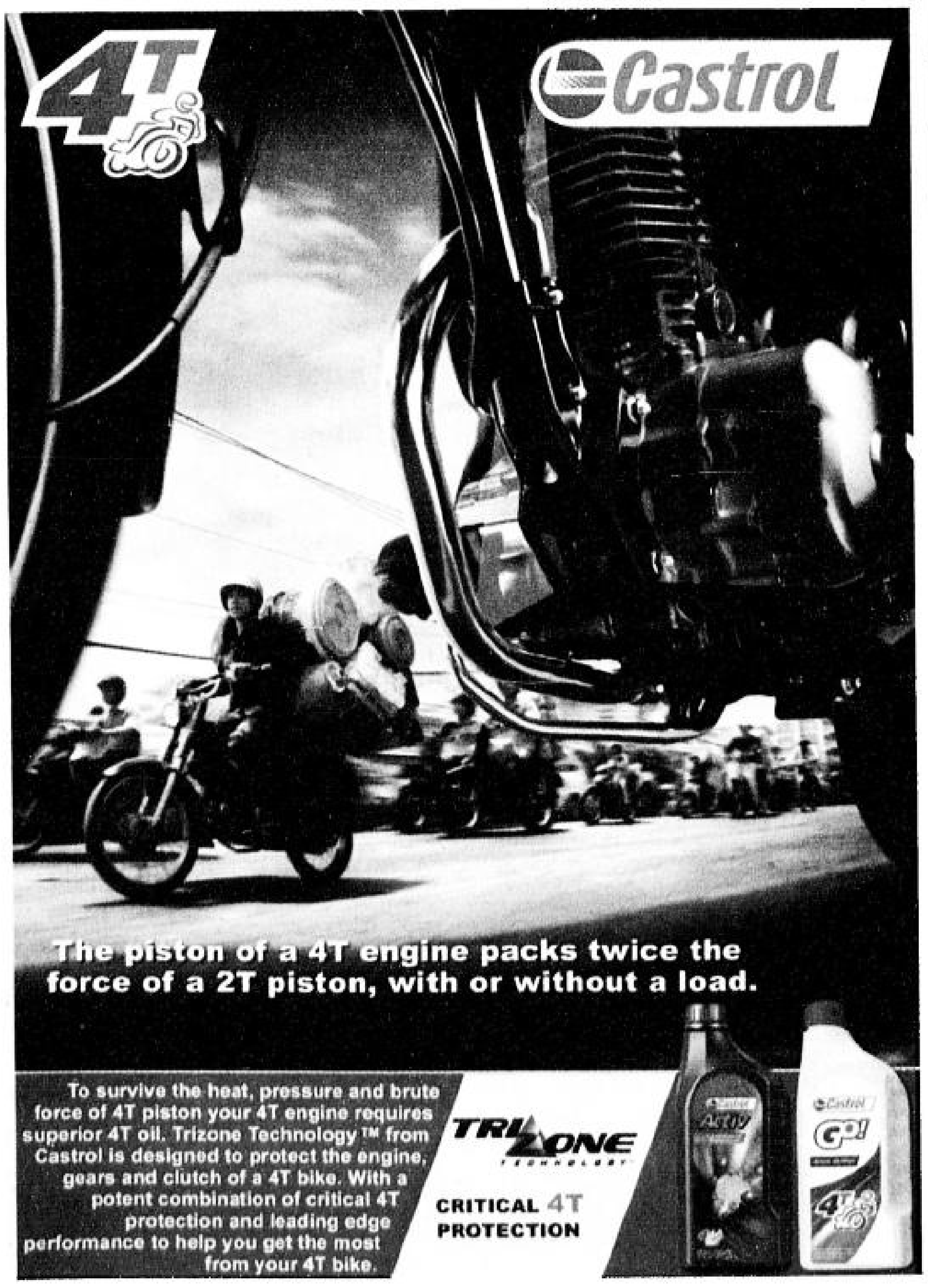

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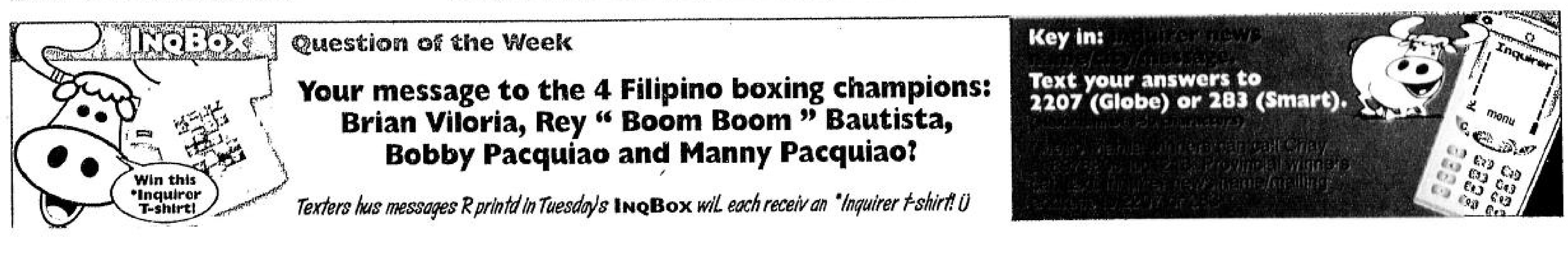
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Question of the Week

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(Ana Capri, Ebong Joson) **Directed by:** Bricio Santos

ANG DAAN PATUNGONG KALIMUGTONG
(Analyn Bangsi-il, Nemee Tocdangan, Rhenuel Ordono)
Directed by: Ramon De Guzman

CUT
(Joel Torre) **Directed by:** Jon Red

DILIM
(Rica Peralejo, Mario Magallona, Emilio Garcia)
Directed by: Topel Lee

ILUSYON
(Yul Servo, JC Parker)
Directed by: Paulo Villaluz / Ellen Ramos

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN
(Richard Quan, Neil Ryan Sese, Maria Isabel Lopez)
Directed by: Gil Portes

TRABAHO
(Ping Medina, Sigrid Bernardo) **Directed by:** Ned Trespeces

TULI
(Desiree Del Valle, Carlo Aquino) **Directed by:** Auraeus Solito

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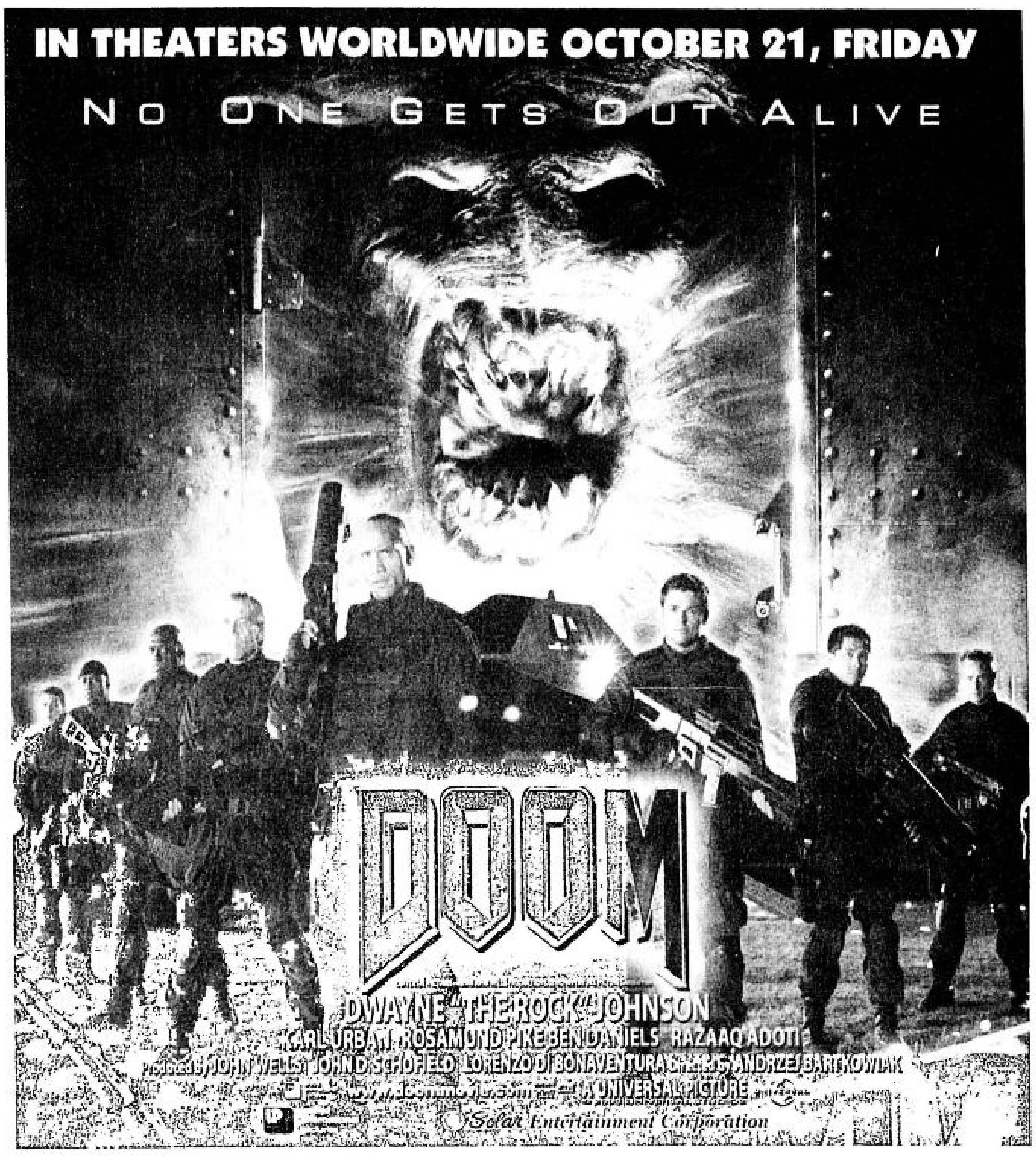
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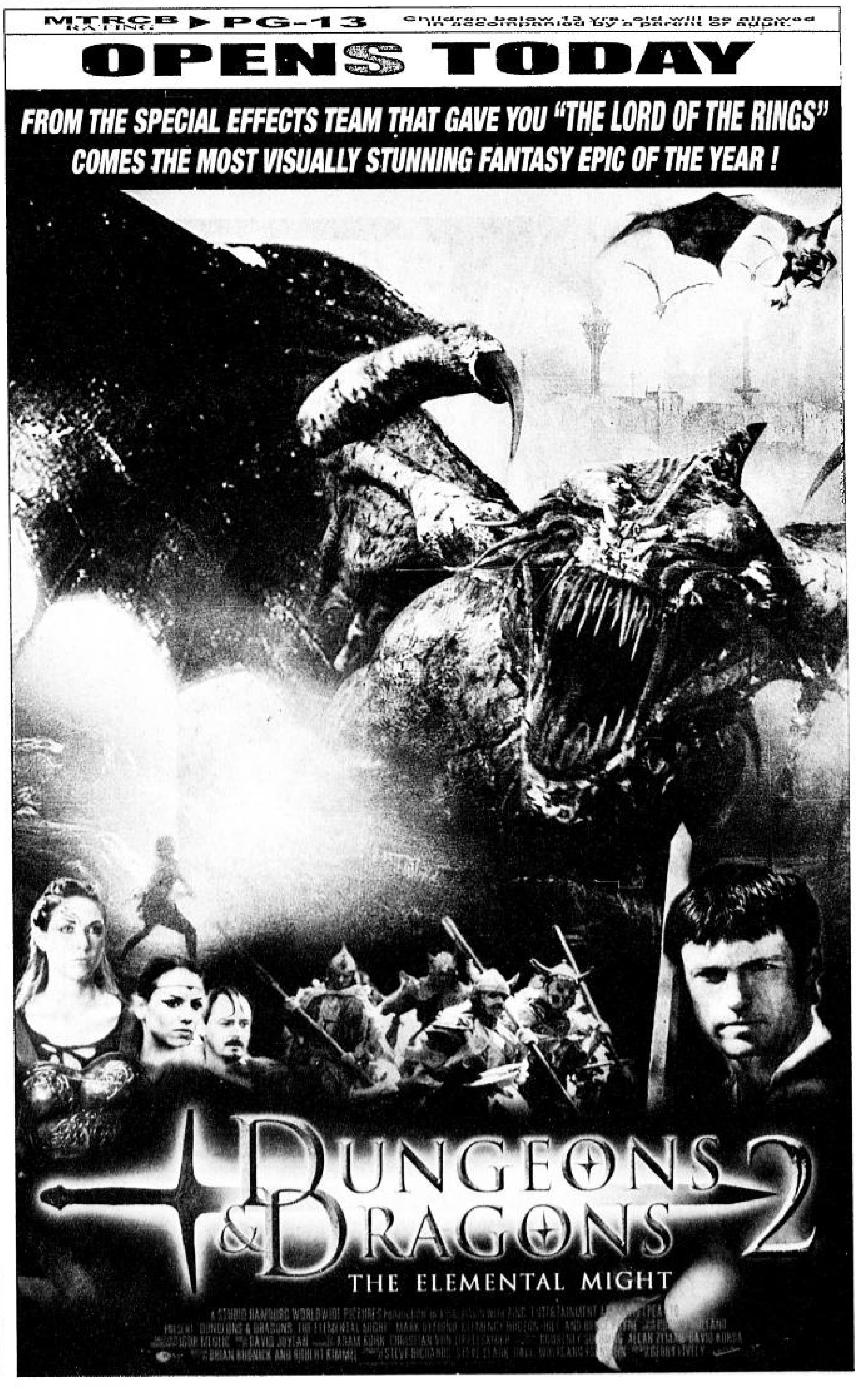
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THE ELEMENTAL MIGHT

Kiddie singing tilt gets its act together

OUR RECENT ARTICLE ON THE NEW KIDdie singing tilt, "Little Big Star," has gotten more than the usual number of reactions, many of them sharing our concern over the "adultification" of young talents.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

A music teacher warns that encouraging child singers to "make *birit*," (belt out high notes to impress both listeners and judges) is a no-no, since it could do injury to young talents' cords for years to come.

Some respondents wondered why the Filipino parents think it's "cute" to dress their children up as "little adults," to kid them about having crushes, falling in love, etc., when they're still children.

They fret: Don't these parents know that this could push their kids prematurely into the world of adult longings and other emotions too mature for them to handle?

And yet, it is these very same parents who bewail their children's precocious sexuality—which they unknowingly encouraged in the first place!

Others urged the judges on "Little Big Stars" to set the tone by favoring contestants who don't make *birit*, sing like the kids they are, and steer clear of songs with adult lyrics about romantic love, passion, etc.

Last Oct. 1, we tuned in once more to "Little Big Star" to see if its handling of its child contestants had become more responsible. Alas, the *birit* and adult lyrics were still there—but the intensive references to the kids' "problematic" families had been toned down. Well, that's something...

Unfortunately, the judges still chose *birit* singers who looked and sounded like pint-sized adults, intoning lyrics that were too hot for them to handle. Are we *ever* going to do right by our child talents?

Happily, things may be turning out better for the show in succeeding weeks. We hear that some TV people agree with a number of our observations and suggestions, so "Little Big Star" may handle its child talents more judiciously from here on in.

They could be asked to choose songs more appropriate to children, avoid adult lyrics, and stop "making *birit*" to impress viewers and judges. If these adjustments and improvements come to pass in the next few weeks, that would be really great!

And it would go a long way in making other TV people realize that child talents have to be treated with special care, so that their vocal cords *and* sensibilities aren't harmed as they try to make it in the entertainment world.

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LORD OF WAR 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20	THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20
WALLACE & GROMIT 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40	INTO THE BLUE 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2	DUBAI 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
CORPSE BRIDE 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	TRANSPORTER 2 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00

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❶ EUROPEAN GIGOLO 12:10 R3 / 1:25 / 3:40 / 5:55 / 8:10	❹ INTO THE BLUE 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
❷ LORD OF WAR 11:55 / 2:45 / 5:35 / 8:25	❺ DUBAI 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
❸ DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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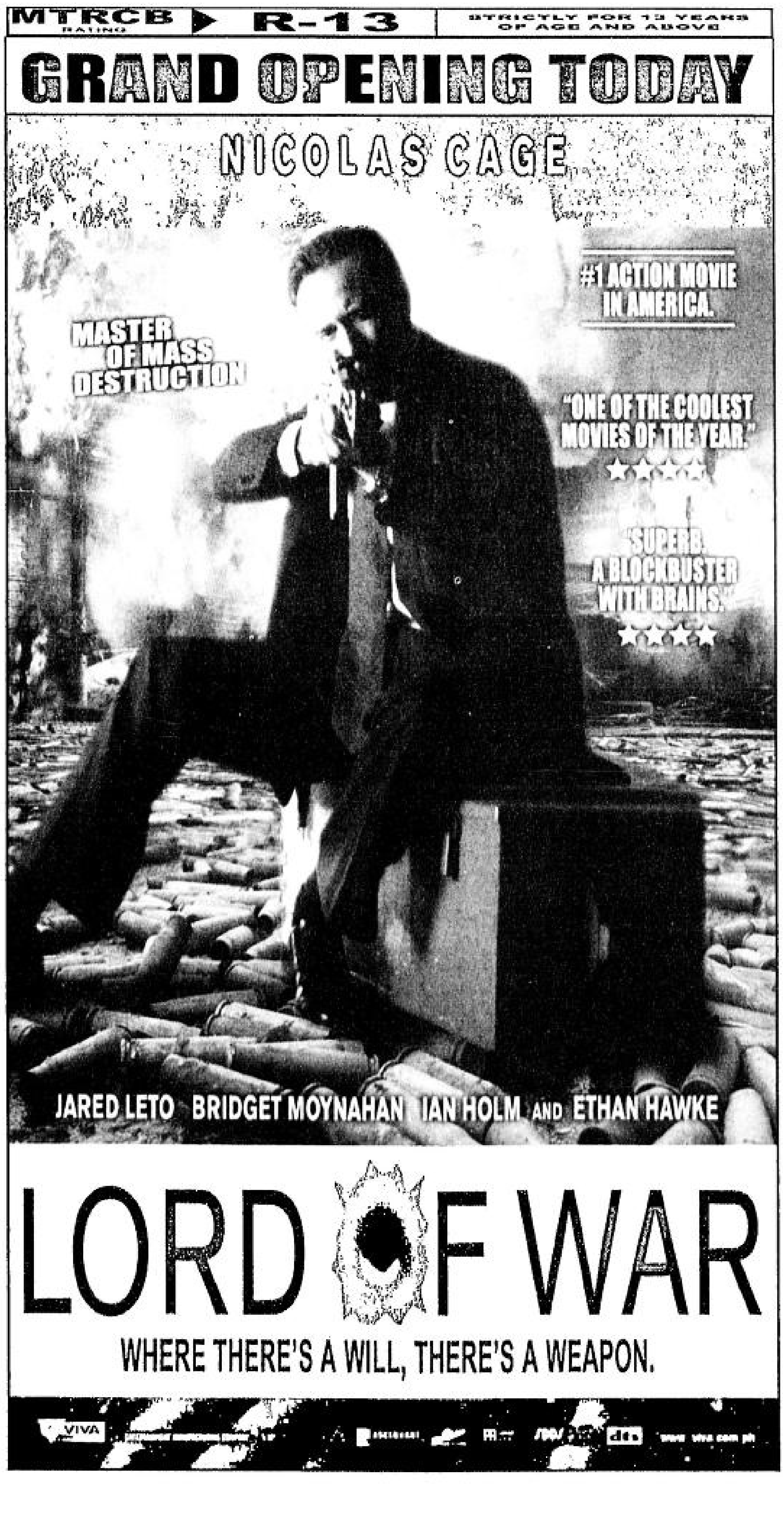

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movietime PREMIERE: ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL October 16 2005 Megamall 4:00pm; MY SASSY GIRL October 17, 2005 Megamall 7:30pm
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08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:30END
2 LORD OF WAR
01:20FS/01:50MF/04:10/06:30
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:00END
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1 FILM FESTIVAL
2 LORD OF WAR
12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:25END
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
12:00FS/12:20MF/02:10/04:00/05:50/07:40
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/10:55END

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SM MEGAMALL
CINEMANILA
2 DUECE BIGALOW
LORD OF WAR
4 TRANSPORTER 2
5 WALLACE & GROMIT
DUNGEONS & GROMIT
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 DUBAI
INTO THE BLUE
TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
LAND OF DEAD

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 LAND OF DEAD
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 LORD OF WAR
8 WALLACE AND GROMIT
9 DUBAI
10 BROTHERS GRIMM
11 BLADE OF ROSE
12 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

SM NORTH EDSA
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
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5 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
5 WALLACE & GROMIT
7 INTO THE BLUE
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

SM CITY MANILA
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 WALLACE & GROMIT
3 DUBAI
4 LORD OF WAR
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7 CINEMANILA
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9 CINEMANILA
10 CINEMANILA
11 CINEMANILA
12 CINEMANILA

SM CITY STA MESA
DEUCE BIGALOW
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
3 LORD OF WAR
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 DUBAI
6 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
INTO THE BLUE
8 WALLACE & GROMIT
9 TRANSPORTER 2
10 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 DUBAI
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5 TRANSPORTER 2
7 WALLACE & GROMIT
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10 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM SAN LAZARO
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 DUBAI
4 CINEMANILA
5 CINEMANILA
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LORD OF WAR
DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW

SM CITY BICUTAN
LORD OF WAR
2 DUBAI
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 INTO THE BLUE

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 CONSTANT GARDENER
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 ONE MISSED CALL 2
6 DUBAI

SM CITY BACOOR
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 WALLACE & GROMIT
3 LORD OF WAR
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
5 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
6 DUBAI
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 INTO THE BLUE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 WALLACE & GROMIT
3 DUBAI
4 LORD OF WAR

SM CITY LUCENA
1 DUBAI
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
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4 PERFECT CATCH

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1 DUECE BIGALOW
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DUBAI
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD

SM CITY MARILAO
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2 LORD OF WAR
3 DUBAI
4 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY BATANGAS
DEUCE BIGALOW
2 DUBAI
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4 PERFECT CATCH

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1 AUSTRALIAN FILM FEST
2 LORD OF WAR
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4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 INTO THE BLUE
6 LAND OF THE DEAD
7 DUBAI
8 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY ILOILO
1 PERFECT MAN
2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 DUECE BIGALOW
6 TRANSPORTER 2
7 RESERVED
8 CONSTANT GARDENER

SM CITY DAVAO
TRANSPORTER 2
DEUCE BIGALOW
3 CONSTANT GARDENER
4 INTO THE BLUE
ONE MISSED CALL 2
5 DUBAI

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
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2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 DUBAI
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Kiddie singing tilt . . .

From page A29

of the original polo shirt created by Lacoste. The project culminates in an evening to be graced by **Philippe Lacoste**, the founder's grandson.

Renowned artists and personalities from different fields have been invited to express their own originality by customizing 12.12 polo shirts. These one-of-a-kind designs will be displayed from Oct. 16 to 27 at the Lacoste Greenbelt 3 boutique, and auctioned off on Oct. 27. Proceeds of the silent auction will benefit the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra Instruments Fund.

Celebrity designers include **Napoleon Abueva, Lor Calma, Jun de Leon, Arturo Luz, Josie Natori, Sharon Cuneta-Pangilinan, Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Lea Salonga, Inno Sotto, Tessa Prieto-Valdes** and **Jaime Zobel de Ayala.**

Eleanor Calbes

CANADA-BASED soprano **Eleanor Calbes** with pianist **Raul Sunico** will close the 2005 Best of the Philippines Concert Series at Philamlife Theater on Nov. 25. Baritone **Noel Azcona** and flutist **GJ Herman Gomez** will also perform. Call 9017156.

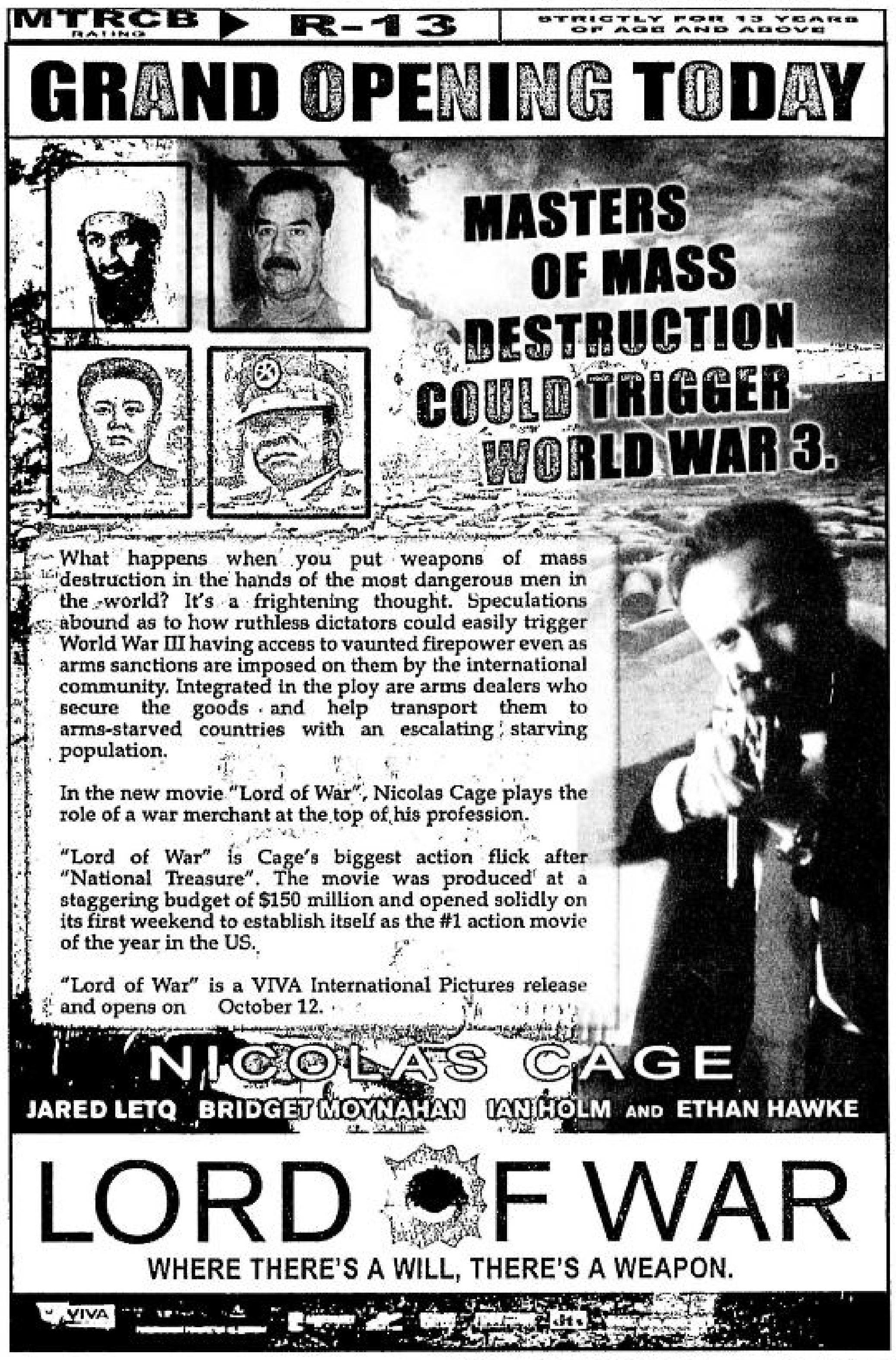
'Ang Ganda!'

JON Santos and John Lapus join comedic forces in "Ang Ganda!," slated at Zirkoh Club on Tomas Morato on Nov. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26. The act will showcase Jon and John as Vilma Santos, Nora Aunor, Rosanna Roces, Vicky Belo, Cory Aquino, Kris Aquino—etc! Call 8152169.

DID YOU KNOW...

LOS ANGELES—Nicolas Cage is branching out into television, signing on as executive producer of a proposed new series about the paranormal. Cage, 41, will be the big cheese behind the scenes on the two-hour pilot episode of "The Dresden Files" for the Sci Fi Channel, Daily Variety said. "It's very much a detective procedural with a speculative sci-fi spin," said network executive Mark Stern. **AFP**

coming soon
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
ASIA's #1 ROMANTIC-COMEDY
I believe ang kapalaran mo'y ako.
At sana, ganun din ang puso mo.
JEON JI HYUN
CHA TAE-HYUN
MY SASSY GIRL
NEW TAGALOG VERSION


MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
GRAND OPENING TODAY
MASTERS OF MASS DESTRUCTION COULD TRIGGER WORLD WAR 3.

What happens when you put weapons of mass destruction in the hands of the most dangerous men in the world? It's a frightening thought. Speculations abound as to how ruthless dictators could easily trigger World War III having access to vaunted firepower even as arms sanctions are imposed on them by the international community. Integrated in the ploy are arms dealers who secure the goods and help transport them to arms-starved countries with an escalating starving population.

In the new movie "Lord of War", Nicolas Cage plays the role of a war merchant at the top of his profession.

"Lord of War" is Cage's biggest action flick after "National Treasure". The movie was produced at a staggering budget of $150 million and opened solidly on its first weekend to establish itself as the #1 action movie of the year in the US.

"Lord of War" is a VIVA International Pictures release and opens on October 12.

NICOLAS CAGE
JARED LETO BRIDGET MOYNAHAN IAN HOLM AND ETHAN HAWKE
LORD OF WAR
WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WEAPON.
VIVA

OPENS TODAY
FROM THE CREATORS OF CHICKEN RUN
MTRCB RATING ▶ G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
Wallace & Gromit
THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT
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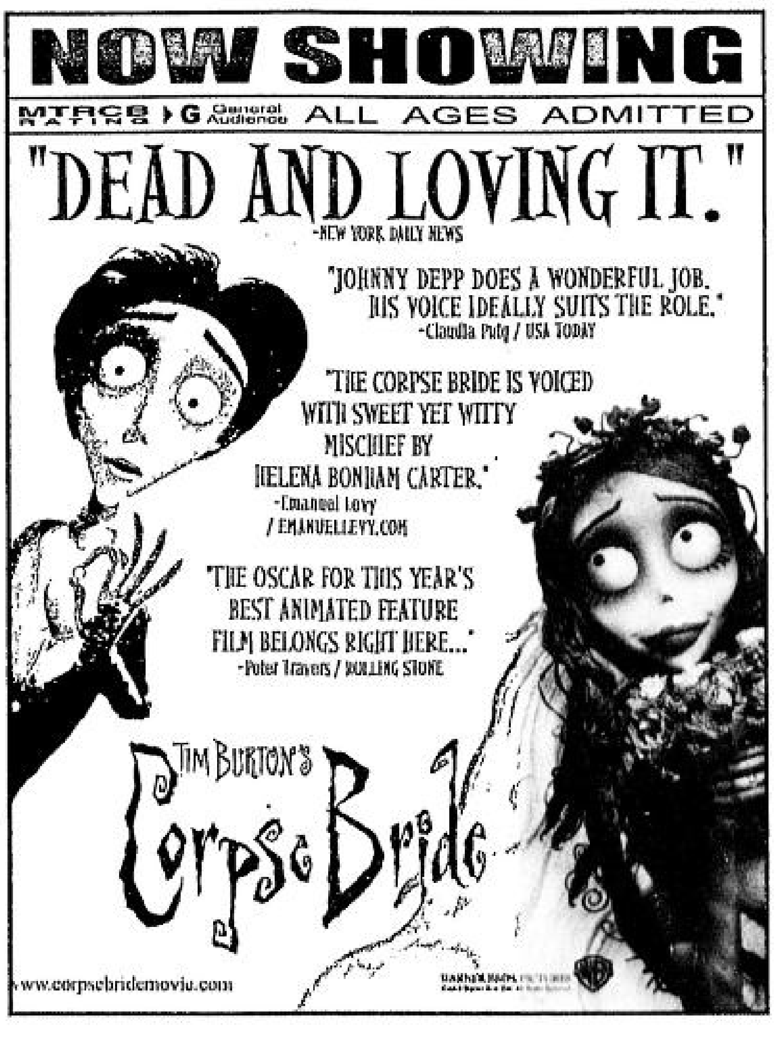
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Audience ALL AGES ADMITTED
"DEAD AND LOVING IT."
-NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
"JOHNNY DEPP DOES A WONDERFUL JOB. HIS VOICE IDEALLY SUITS THE ROLE."
-Claudia Puig / USA TODAY
"THE CORPSE BRIDE IS VOICED WITH SWEET YET WITTY MISCHIEF BY HELENA BONHAM CARTER."
-Emanuel Levy / EMANUELLEVY.COM
"THE OSCAR FOR THIS YEAR'S BEST ANIMATED FEATURE FILM BELONGS RIGHT HERE..."
-Peter Travers / ROLLING STONE
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OPENS TODAY
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STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP
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ROB SCHNEIDER
DEUCE BIGALOW
EUROPEAN GIGOLO
FOR THE WOMEN OF EUROPE...THE PRICE OF LOVE JUST GOT A LOT CHEAPER.
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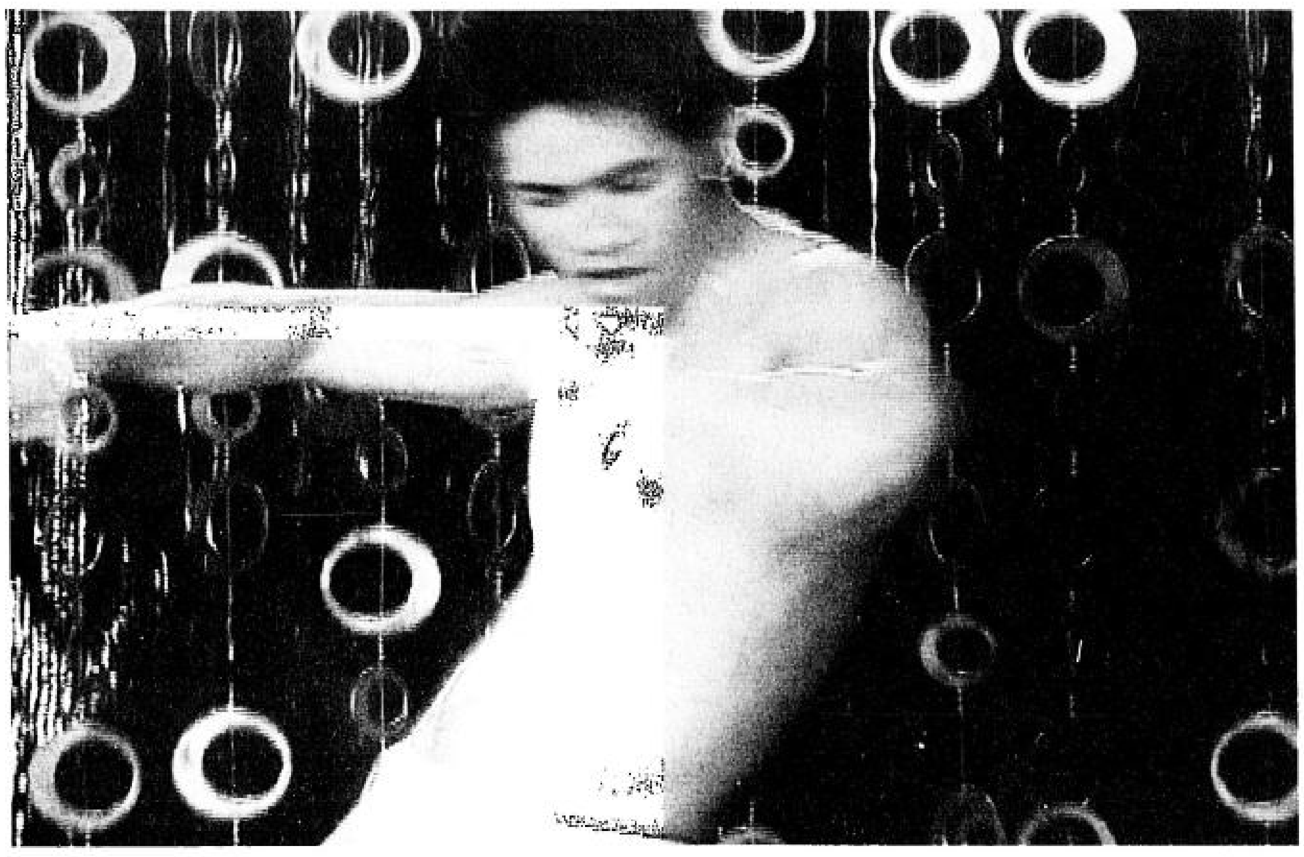
Editor Emmie G. Velarde



PAOLO Serrano as Mark, the starstruck macho dancer in "Matthew, Mark, Luke & John."

TAKE FIVE

The gospel according to Gil Portes

Award-winning filmmaker goes digital again for a Cinemanila entry

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT STARTED WITH A DARE.

And since award-winning filmmaker Gil M. Portes is not one to shy away from a challenge, he agreed to use a digital camera for his latest work, "Matthew, Mark, Luke & John," an entry to this year's Cinemanila International Film Festival.

Portes corrects the impression that he's just jumped on the digital bandwagon. In 2001, he made his first digital feature under Star Cinema—"ID," starring Ricky Davao and Glydel Mercado.

"ID" tells the story of an aspiring OFW whose police clearance is rejected because he has a suspected murderer for a namesake.

"It went straight to video," Portes quips, laughing. "It was shown on [the ABS-CBN cable channel] Cinema One. We were among the pioneers of the digital movement."

Just like "ID," "Matthew, Mark, Luke & John" is a slice-of-life film. "Vignettes, inspired by the real stories of people around me," the director admits.

The disparate and desperate stories of a masseur, macho dancer, DI (dance instructor) and *torero* (live-sex performer) come together at the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran one Wednesday night.

Portes tells the story behind the movie.

What led you to this project?

A friend dared me and gave me money to do this film.

How much?

Small. Don't ask! *Basta* it's not more than one million pesos. After the friend gave us the concept [of the four stories], my collaborators [Adolf Alix and Senedy Que] and I worked on the script.

How long did you shoot?

Five days!

What was the biggest challenge?

To bring this film to the world!

At the time you were making the movie, your mom passed away?

While we were planning, my mom was dying. I had to make a lot of long-distance calls to [my hometown in] Quezon. The stories of the masseur, macho dancer, D.I. and *torero* had been done before. Our goal was to come up with a fresh, innovative film using those same characters.

How did the film end up in Cinemanila?

One night, I bumped into [festival director] Tikoy Aguiluz in Burger King and he asked if I wanted to join the digital section.

Would you say this is your most daring film to date?

If it is, then let it be. But I don't define "daring" in terms of showing flesh.

It tackles contemporary problems?

And issues that affect everybody. It's about the poverty in our country.

What was it like working with a mix of new (Justin de Leon and Paolo Serrano) and veteran (Richard Quan and Neil Ryan Sese) actors?

It was fun. The young actors were very receptive with directions, while the older ones were used to me because they always come out in my movies.

How has digital technology changed since 2001?

It has advanced immensely. Back then, we used a Canon Excel camera. This time we used a Panavision that shoots 24 frames per second. If you blow it up, it'll look the same as film.

What's your take on the debate: film vs. digital?

There's no difference. You do the same shots. You direct the same actors. You tell the same story.

The mini-DV camera, in fact, is very flexible. You can lug it anywhere. Plus, you don't have to process negatives. You can even check the footage, right there and then, on the set. It has more advantages.

Someone said digital was the poor man's film. Excuse me! That's insulting to all the independent filmmakers who use digital cameras. What can today's filmmakers brag about? The same old tired stories they keep rehashing. Independent filmmakers are more daring and adventurous. Two of the year's best films—"Masahista" and 'Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros—were shot with digital cameras and they won in film festivals abroad.

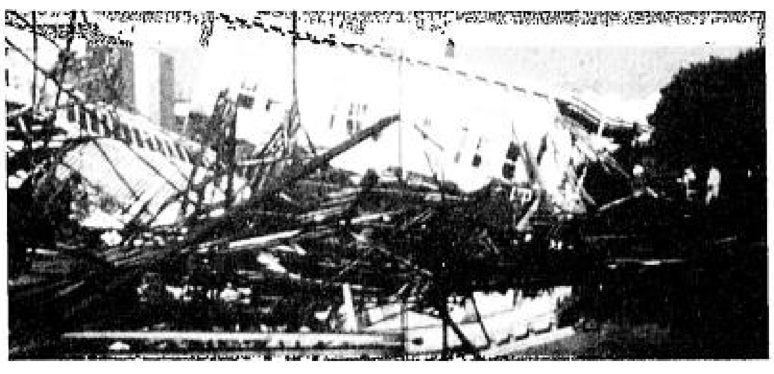
It's a digital revolution.

It's all over the world. Lars von Trier won the Palm D'Or in 2000 at the Cannes Film Festival with "Dancer in the Dark," a digital film. In 1998, [Thomas Vinterberg's] "The Celebration" won the Jury Prize in Cannes.

It's just us Filipinos who are lagging behind because of the influence of [film companies] Kodak, Fuji and other people who look down on digital films as low-budget and cheap.

Cinemanila reels off today. Portes' movie will be screened today, awards night is on Oct. 19. The festival winds up Oct. 25.

ROUNDUP



ON National Geographic Channel tonight at 9, "Catastrophe: San Francisco Earthquake," as the "Savage Earth Week" series continues.

"IN Kiliti-cal Condition," a comic revue staged recently in California, Nevada and New Jersey and starring Nanette Inventor, Jon Santos and Leo Martinez, will go on a second US tour next year.

FEEDBACK

FROM Alvin Lamadrid of Angono Rizal, via e-mail:

I respect Mr. Nestor U. Torre's opinion about "Pinoy Big Brother" on ABS-CBN. I understand where he is coming from. But you simply cannot deny the fact that the show is such a big hit and that many Filipinos watch it. This fact, I think, is proof that Pinoys are now ready for these kinds of shows.

* * *

FROM Monalisa Mohammad of 145 Sheppard Ave. North York, Ontario, Canada (via email), for "Only IN Hollywood" columnist Ruben Nepales:

I enjoyed reading your articles on the Toronto Film Festival. I made sure I watched on television all the press conferences for the different films in the festival. But I still had a blast reading about them in your column. I always go straight to the Entertainment section of Inq7 on the days that "Only IN Hollywood" comes out. You have such an exciting job. I wouldn't mind trading places with you in my next life. Keep it coming!

OPENING TODAY

Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit

Featuring the voices of Peter Sallis, Ralph Fiennes and Helena Bonham Carter
Directed by Nick Park and Steve Box

SUMMARY: Wallace is an inventor. Gromit is a dog. This is their first feature. Wallace sails out bravely to do great but reckless deeds, and Gromit takes the role of adult guardian. Lady Tottington is holding her family's 517th annual Giant Vegetable Fête, and all the gardeners for miles around are lovingly caressing their gigantic melons and zucchinis and carrots and such, and Wallace and Gromit are responsible for security, which means keeping rabbits out of the garden patches.

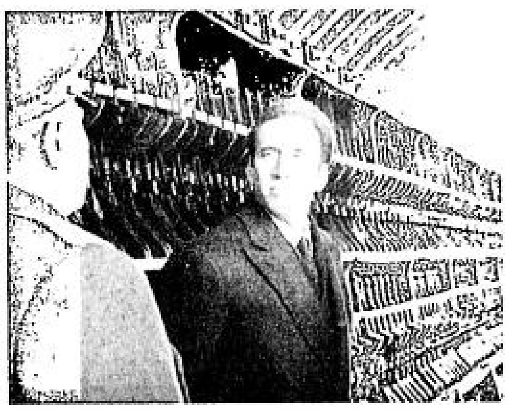
Roger Ebert, in his Oct. 7 review for the Chicago Sun-Times, wrote: "Wallace and Gromit are arguably the two most delightful characters in the history of animation. Between the previous sentence and this one I paused thoughtfully and stared into space and thought of all of the other animated characters I have ever met, and I gave full points to Bugs Bunny and high marks to Little Nemo and a fond nod to Goofy, and returned to the page convinced that, yes, Wallace and Gromit are in a category of their own. To know them is to enter a universe of boundless optimism, in which two creatures who are perfectly suited to each other venture out every morning to make the world into a safer place for the gentle, the good and the funny. "

Lord of War

Stars Nicolas Cage, Ethan Hawke, Bridget Moynahan
Directed by Andrew Niccol

PLOT OUTLINE: An arms dealer (Cage) confronts the morality of his work as he is being chased by an Interpol agent (Hawke).

Ty Bur wrote this Sept. 16 review for the Boston Globe: "[The movie] literally starts off with a bang. The film's opening credits, scored to Buffalo Springfield's 'For What It's Worth,' are shot from the point of view of a bullet as it makes its way from a Russian factory to ... into the brain of an anonymous young African man. He may be a killer himself, or he may be an innocent. The bullet doesn't care... 'Lord of War' is advocacy entertainment—an act of mainstream provocation ... and, for the most part, it works unusually well... The movie wants to shake you up and make you mad enough to do something, but unlike other filmmakers, Niccol ('Gattaca') has the skill to get you dramatically involved and thinking at the same time. His outrage is balanced by a storyteller's native interest in what his characters will do next."



Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo

Stars Rob Schneider, Eddie Griffin, Jeroen Krabbe
Directed by Mike Bigelow

SUMMARY: Devastated by the death of his wife, Deuce journeys to socially permissive Amsterdam to find that his gigolo-pimp buddy TJ has gone into hiding, suspected of killing his clients.

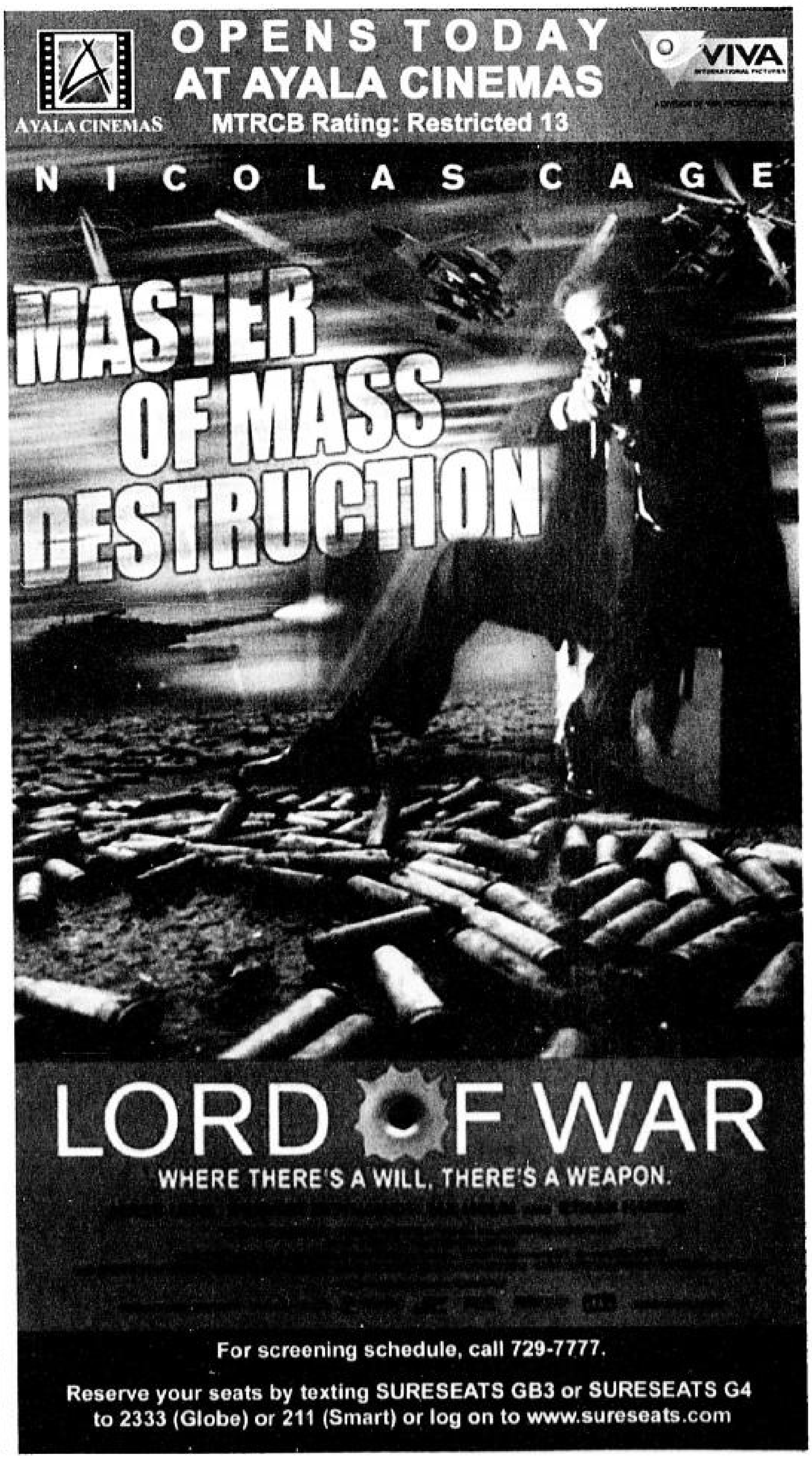
Peter Bradshaw, in his Sept. 30 review for The Guardian, wrote: "Deplorable. Reprehensible. Absolutely appalling. I am referring to my own behavior while watching this very immature comedy from Rob Schneider. I giggled guiltily throughout. It is about the adventures of an unattractive male prostitute from America visiting Europe, and is in fact the sequel to his 1999 comedy 'Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo,' for which no BFI Modern Classics monograph yet exists. It's rude, crude, and—how can I put this?—operates some way outside the precincts of genteel good taste. I laughed. I wasn't the only one."

Dungeons & Dragons 2: The Elemental Might

Stars Mark Dymond, Clemency Burton-Hill, Bruce Payne
Directed by Gerry Lively

SUMMARY: Based on the phenomenally successful role-playing game, the sequel takes you deeper into the dark and fantastical world of this fantasy epic. Evil sorcerer Damodar steals the elemental black orb and plans to take over the kingdom of Ismir. Berek, a decorated warrior, and Melora, an amateur sorceress join four heroes and try to stop him.

Macenthe posted this review on imdb.com: "I was amazed when I found out that they were making a sequel to the horror that was the first 'Dungeons & Dragons' movie... Thankfully this time, the source material was taken more seriously and the project was put in better hands."



OPENS TODAY AT AYALA CINEMAS
AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
NICOLAS CAGE
MASTER OF MASS DESTRUCTION
LORD OF WAR
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For screening schedule, call 729-7777.
Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com

Festival of Festivals

Golden Bear Award Nomination
Berlinale 2005
Opening Film: HIDDEN BLADE by Yoji Yamada (Japan) • 9:30 pm, SM Manila

7th CINEMANILA international film festival

Cinemanila Reels Off Today

The Cinemanila International Film Festival, now on its seventh year, once again lives up to its billing as the "festival of festivals" in the Philippines when it screens more than a hundred internationally acclaimed and award-winning films from different countries from October 12 to 25 in the City of Manila and at selected Metro Manila cinemas.

Cinemanila, in cooperation with the City of Manila, adheres to the theme "Buhayin ang Pelikulang Pilipino" and continues its tradition of showing films both Filipino and foreign that can eventually make significant impact abroad. Cinemanila, named after the independent production outfit formed by the late great filmmaker Lino Brocka, aims to promote Filipino films to world cinema audiences and world cinema to Filipino audiences and of developing new and independent filmmakers.

For this year, Cinemanila festival director Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz VI and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza revealed that the festival will give more encouragement and focus to a stronger local counterpart through the local digital film competition. Out of the 21 entries, eight were selected to compete in the most important digital film festival in the country. The grand winner will receive1.5 million pesos, the second place winner will receive1 million pesos; and the third place winner will receive P750,000. The remaining five finalists will each receive P100,000

Also part of the festival is the Young Cinema Program which features the works of some of the most promising young filmmakers in the country. In competition are Angelo Lacuesta's *Doc Dwende*, Sherad Anthony Sanchez' *Apple*, Mark V. Reyes' *Last Full Show*, John Torres' *Salat*, Ronald Bertubin's *Lansa*, and Clarissa delos Reyes' *Nanay*. Apart from the competition films, the program will also have 11 other films for exhibition.

The festival will also hold the second staging of the Boracay International Co-Production Meeting, the first ever co-production market in the Philippines, with the support of the Hubert Bals Fund of the International Festival of Rotterdam and the Goteborg Film Festival Fund. The Boracay summit will grant $10,000 each to two film projects selected by representatives from Hubert Bals and Goteborg from October 20 to 23.

During the Cinemanila festival proper, one of the highlights is the tribute to the Pusan International Film Festival with critically acclaimed Korean films such as *Untold Scandal, Joint Security Area, President's Last Bang, The Isle*, and *Tae Guk Gi* spicing up the annual event. Cinemanila 2005 will also award a special honor to PIFF director Kim Dong Ho on October 19.

Cinemanila continues the Nordic legacy as it features films from the countries of Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland. This year's Nordic Lights Program showcases the films of Lukas Moodysson (*A Hole in My Heart, Lilya 4-Ever, Together* and *Jalla! Jalla!*). Moodysson is the only person to have won four Guldbaggar, the Swedish equivalent of the Oscars. In addition, well-known filmmakers Von Trier, Vinterberg, and Hamer return with their new works, which are said to be commentaries on the American way of life

Moreover, the festival focuses the spotlight on two premiere filmmakers: USA's Roger Corman and the Philippines' Raymond Red. Corman is best remembered for the films, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Vampirella*. He has worked with Jonathan Demme, Martin Scorsese, Ron Howard, Francis Ford Coppola and James Cameron early in their careers. On October 19, Corman will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, JR. Red, on the other hand, is one of the country's leading independent filmmakers and is the only Filipino to have won the prestigious Palm D' Or at the Cannes International Film Festival. Cinemanila pays tribute to his talent by presenting a retrospective of his works.

Cinemanila also presents the Asian and Philippine premieres of the Dardenne brothers' *The Child*, Ang Lee's *Brokeback Mountain*, *Dear Wendy* by Thomas Vinterberg, *The King* starring Gael Garcia Bernal, the Maggie Cheung-starrer *Clean, The Hidden Blade, Downfall, Better Luck Tomorrow, The Beautiful Country, Voices of Iraq, Moolaade, Strings, Amor Idiota, One Nite in Mongkok*, and *Palermo Hollywood*.

PUSAN
International Film Festival

Tribute to Kim Dong Ho
and the Pusan International Film Festival

Tribute to Roger Corman

Raymond Red Retrospective

Korean Cinema Focus

Nordic Lights 2
Asian Premiere of Dear Wendy

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President

My most esteemed greetings to the organizers, board of judges, guests, participants and spectators in the *2005 Cinemanila International Film Festival*

I commend Cinemanila for living up to its commitment to the cause of independent filmmaking while increasing our people's appreciation of the arts. Over the years, this internationally-recognized festival has served as a gathering of great filmmakers from the world over whose ingenuity, artistry and excellence in the art of filmmaking are evident in their critically-acclaimed masterpieces.

The government fully supports this endeavor and joins Cinemanila in forging cultural cooperation among nations through the language of film. I hope this event will open new avenues to both foreign and Filipino filmmakers in producing films of high quality and social relevance

I urge our international filmmakers to enhance their invaluable contribution to the development of the film industry. Your dedication to excellence will surely redound to the benefit of our film industry

I wish you all a successful festival. *MABUHAY!*

Gloria Arroyo

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President

Republic of the Philippines
City of Manila

MABUHAY!

My warmest felicitations to all the people behind the 7th **Cinemanila International Film Festival** which will be held on October 12-25, 2005 in our proud capital city

The City of Manila is proud to be the host and partner of the Cinemanila in its 7th year. The theme, ***Buhayin ang Pelikulang Pilipino***, stresses our common desire to revive the local film industry. I believe this event will serve as a strong testament to the Filipinos' ingenuity, craftsmanship, talent and perseverance in creating quality films, this time focusing on the digital component of local filmmaking

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all those who will come out victorious in the digital film competition. However, the biggest victory can only be achieved in the accomplishment of our common goal to revive the local film industry and to promote films not only as a form of entertainment but also as a medium to awaken social and national consciousness.

May this festival serve as an inspiration and challenge to our budding young filmmakers to further hone their craft towards excellence. As Father of the City, I fervently hope that you continue with your worthy endeavors as we in the city government support all efforts aimed at the preservation and promotion of our people's artistry and cultural awareness alongside our aggressive urban renewal and development program

Tuloy-tuloy ang programang 'Buhayin ang Maynila!'.

Buhay na Maynila, Buhay ng Bansa!

Jose L. Atienza, Jr.
Mayor

CINEMANILA
International Film Festival

The Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines has joined forces with the City of Manila to stage the 7th Cinemanila International Film Festival. With the theme Buhayin ang Pelikulang Pilipino, we are bound by a common goal to promote Filipino films to world cinema audiences and world cinema to Filipino audiences, as well as develop new and independent filmmakers.

As the longest running film festival of its kind in the Philippines, and the lone internationally recognized film festival in the country, we have decided to give more focus on a stronger local counterpart through our "Cinema Indio" local digital film competition. Cinemanila has always campaigned for the growth and development of Philippine cinema, and a crucial element in that growth is the development of digital filmmaking

I don't need to tell you that digital filmmaking is the wave of the future. Everyone talks about the digital revolution, how it will change the face of cinema, how it will put a digital camcorder in the hand of everyone who wants to make a film, how they will go out and capture all aspects of the world, from the streets of New York to the rain forests of Asia

Ever since our passionate and chaotic beginnings in 1999, Cinemanila has always been there for the digital filmmakers, the bright lights of Philippine cinema at this point in time

Mabuhay ang Cinemanila, mabuhay ang Pelikulang Pilipino at Digital Lokal!

Amable 'Tikoy' R. Aguiluz
Festival Director

DIGITAL LOKAL: Cinemanila Digital Film Competition

Ala Verde Ala Pobre *by Briccio Santos*
Cut *by Jon Red*
Ang Daan Tungong Kalimugtong *by Mes de Guzman*
Dilim *by Topel Lee*
Ilusyon *by Paolo Villaluna & Ellen Ramos*
Matthew, Mark, Luke & John *by Gil Portes*
Trabaho *by Ned Trespeces*
Tuli *by Auraeus Solito*

Cinemanila astig. Cinemanila orig. Cinemanila, cinema natin.

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Exports up by a measly 0.8% in August

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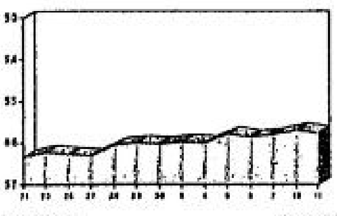


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

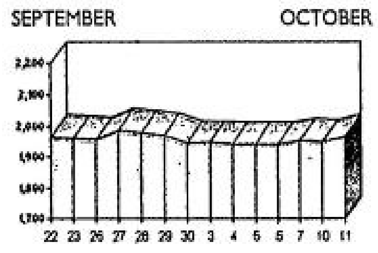
P 55.78 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 11, 2005

¥ 114.06 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 11, 2005

GOLD: $478.00-478.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 10, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Bargain-hunting lifts stocks

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.76 percent higher yesterday as investors chased stocks of companies expected to report strong profits for the three months to September, dealers said.

Oversold stocks were also favorites, they added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 14.80 points to 1,964.22, the day's high and off a low of 1,949.42. Turnover was 313.19 million shares worth P1.24 billion.

The broader all-shares index gained 8.33 points to 1,190.20.

Gainers beat losers 42 to 20, with 46 stocks unchanged.

Dealers said foreign investors have of late been gradually accumulating stocks with robust earnings prospects, taking advantage of low prices and lingering political

BARGAIN-HUNTING/B2

As growth in electronics demand slows down

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S EXPORTS hardly grew in August as the growth in demand for electronics slowed down, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

The NSO said that merchandise exports expanded by a mere 0.8 percent to $3.46 billion from $3.43 billion a year ago. Of the amount, electronics accounted for $2.29 billion, representing a minimal 1.2 percent year-on-year growth.

The August exports brought the January-to-August figure to $26.36 billion, or 4.1 percent higher than the $25.32 billion recorded in the same period last year.

The August exports figure showed the erratic behavior of the country's export performance. In July, the export sector seemed to have already recovered from weakening global demand as exports recorded a respectable 11.4-percent year-on-year growth.

Dennis Arroyo, director of the policy and planning staff of the National Economic and Development Authority, told the INQUIRER that the low export growth in August could merely be an effect of a high base in the same month last year. He said that in August 2004, exports of semiconductor, which comprise a large part of electronics exports, grew by 17 percent.

He said that the Neda was still hopeful that the 8-percent export growth forecast for 2005 would be achieved. Historical trend showed that exports tended to jump in the last few months of the year, partly because of the holiday spending, he added.

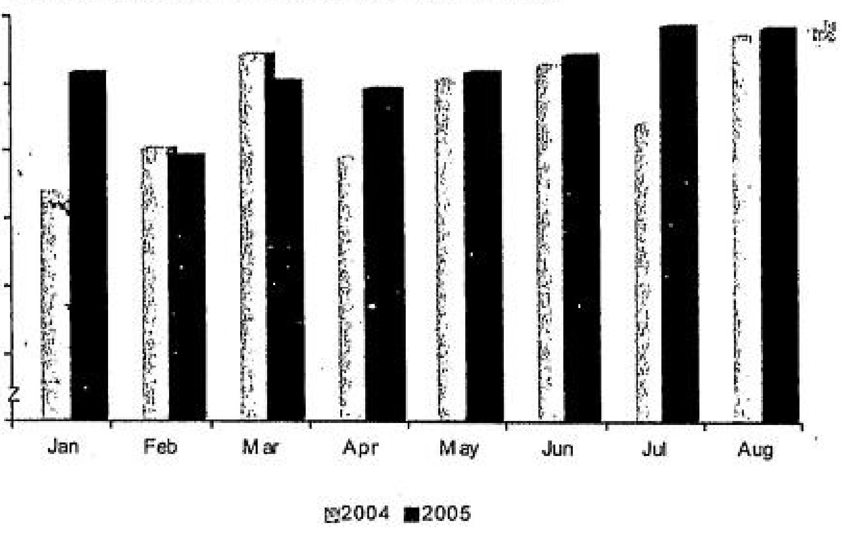
Arroyo said that the US Semicon Industry Alliance, a group of semiconductor firms in the United States, one of the Philippines' biggest export market, indicated that there would still be strong demand for microprocessors, flash memory, cellular phones and MP3 players in the remaining months of the year.

Following electronics in the list of top exports for August were articles of apparel and clothing accessories, which accounted for 7 percent of total exports for the month. Exports of products from this group stood at $241.29 million or 5.1 percent higher than the $229.61 million a year ago.

Other top exports were ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships ($64.04 million); coconut oil ($60.88 million); woodcraft and furniture ($41.64 million); other products manufactured from materials imported on consignment basis ($37.66 million); petroleum products ($34.6 million); metal components ($31.07 million), and fresh bananas ($25.3 million).

EXPORTS/B2

TOTAL EXPORTS
January to August 2004 and 2005, in billion US$



ASEAN Federation of Mining Associations president Benjamin Phillip Romualdez welcomes Asean Secretary General Ong Keng Yong to the 6th Asia Pacific Mining Conference which started Tuesday at the Manila Shangri-la Hotel. RYAN LIM

Robinsons to carry Toys 'R' Us brand in RP

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE ROBINSONS RETAIL GROUP OF TYcoon John Gokongwei Jr. is signing an agreement with Li & Fung, the Asian franchise holder of the American chain Toys "R" Us, to bring the world's biggest toy brand into the Gokongwei mall network.

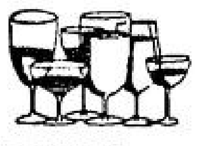
Sources told the INQUIRER that the Robinsons Retail Group will house the brand in its chain of Robinsons malls.

Based in the United States, the Toys "R" Us toy chain also operates in other countries, with around 1,500 stores worldwide. The Toys "R" Us chain was founded by Charles Lazarus in Washington DC during the post-war baby boom era in 1948. The flagship store in New York City's Times Square is the largest toy store in the world, featuring a colorful ferris wheel.

In March of 2005, a consortium of investors led by buyout specialists Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. agreed to buy the toy giant for a reported $6.6 billion.

Meanwhile, the Robinsons Retail Group includes 14 Robinsons Supermarket branches and 41 Robinsons Handyman outlets. It also carries Robinsons Department Store (RDS), one of the biggest department store chains in the Philippines. RDS currently operates a total of 20 stores with 17 located in Metro Manila and three in the Visayas region.

WHAT'S INSIDE



P390M for Mike cousin, zero for employees /B3

Int'l banks keen on bankrolling Surigao project /B5

NTC collects P2B as of Sept. /B5

Forex reserves seen to remain at $18B /B10

RP taps ODA worth $100M from China /B14

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2198 Series of 2005

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 11, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	12,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	30.5	31	66,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52.5	53	52.5	53	230,400
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	670,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48.5	49	48.5	48.5	95,000
International Exch. Bank	18.75	19	18.75	19	10,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	201,000
Philippine National Bank	30	31	30	31	21,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	3,000
Security Bank Corp.	29	29	29	29	3,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	70,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2020	2030	2020	2030	330
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14	14	14	2,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.92	930,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	735	735	730	730	7,960
Ipeople Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.7	20,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	1,519,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1680	1695	1680	1695	70,210
Ivantage Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	60,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	8,100,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	48,500
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.5	21	21.5	838,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	5,149,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.35	3.25	3.35	1,436,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.99	1	0.99	1	90,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.3	392,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.2	60,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	560,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.95	3.1	2.95	3.1	2,752,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.55	3.5	3.55	150,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	10,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	36	36	35.5	36	501,200
Pancake House Inc.	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7	80,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	65	65	83,100
San Miguel Corp. B	92	92	91.5	92	114,000
Universal Robina Corp.	17	17	17	17	400
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	190,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	292.5	295	287.5	287.5	256,850
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	4.95	1,969,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10	10	10	10	2,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.04	2.04	280,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	90,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	15,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	1,510,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	2,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	2,450,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.05	1,257,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	600,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5	5	5	5	37,000
F&J Princ.e Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43	43	42.5	43	1,005,600
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.85	3.7	3.85	1,720,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	2,065,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	560,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	300,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	60,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	422,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	500,000
SM Investments Corp.	218	220	218	220	342,180
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	7,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.115	2,400,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	600,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	80,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	310,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	2,130,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	800,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	31,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	11	11	11	11	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.6	42,969,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	400,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.175	0.18	1,950,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.65	0.67	0.65	0.67	20,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	180,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	1,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.28	1.3	1,685,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	500,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.5	5.7	5.4	5.6	493,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.5	2,570,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.92	0.99	0.92	0.92	350,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	210,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	145,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	20,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	93,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.215	14,010,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.245	0.245	0.235	0.235	10,580,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	27,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	37,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	94,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	360,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	730,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	26	25.5	26	74,200
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.3	4.35	4.3	4.3	104,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,393,430	26,370,075.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	67,212,290	814,351,755.00
PRO	52,007,000	394,863,250.00
Mining	185,472,200	11,940,100.00
OIL	6,204,000	529,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	312,288,920	1,248,054,380.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	562.04	UP 2.65
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,105.76	UP 25.02
PRO	737.45	UP 7.52
Mining	2,395.49	DOWN 14.98
OIL	2.95	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,190.20	UP 8.33
Composite	1,964.22	UP 14.80

NO. OF ADVANCES: 42; NO. OF DECLINES: 20; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 108; NO. OF TRADES: 1,830

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SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-0436
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 802-1565
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
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DISCLOSURES

VICENTE T. Paterno has resigned as independent director of **Cityland Development Corp.** due to his acceptance of President Macapagal-Arroyo's invitation to join the Consultative Commission to propose revisions to the 1987 Constitution.

***

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co. has engaged Renato J. Galve, partner at Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. (SGV), as its external auditor for 2005.

***

ROXAS Holdings Inc. purchased 30,000 of its common shares at P1.18 per share on Oct. 10 pursuant to its share buy back program.

***

UEM DEVELOPMENT Phils. Inc. elected the following new officers on Oct. 10: Luis J.L. Virata, president and chair; Rufia Dorothy C. Vera, treasurer; Brigida R. Aquino, secretary, and Christopher Rey L. Fernandez, assistant secretary.

***

LEISURE & Resorts World Corp. elected the following new officers on Oct. 10: Reynaldo P. Bantug, chair; Alfredo Abelardo B. Benitez, president; Renato Nuñez, vice president; Geoffrey L. Uymatiao, treasurer and compliance officer, and Edeline G. Ramos, corporate secretary and corporate information officer. Bantug was also elected chair of the audit committee, with Uymatiao and independent directors Bienvenido Santiago and Leopoldo Campos as members. ***Compiled by Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

October 11, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.828569	1.000000	55.7440
Japan	Yen	0.007264	0.008767	0.4887
United Kingdom	Pound	1.455630	1.756800	97.9311
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106846	0.128952	7.1883
Switzerland	Franc	0.645806	0.779423	43.4482
Canada	Dollar	0.704386	0.850123	47.3893
Singapore	Dollar	0.492024	0.593824	33.1021
Australia	Dollar	0.627324	0.757117	42.2047
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.198788	2.653717	147.9288
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220881	0.266581	14.8603
Brunei	Dollar	0.490568	0.592066	33.0041
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000100	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020283	0.024480	1.3646
UAE	Dirham	0.225602	0.272279	15.1779
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.206900	67.2774
Argentina	Peso	0.282307	0.340716	18.9929
Brazil	Real	0.366008	0.441735	24.6241
Denmark	Kroner	0.133990	0.161713	9.0145
India	Rupee	0.018703	0.022573	1.2583
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219838	0.265322	14.7901
Mexico	New Peso	0.076780	0.092666	5.1656
New Zealand	Dollar	0.576356	0.695604	38.7757
Norway	Kroner	0.127003	0.153280	8.5444
South Africa	Rand	0.126764	0.152992	8.5284
Korea	Won	0.000799	0.000964	0.0537
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024966	0.030132	1.6797
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000386	0.000466	0.0260

UCPB PROPERTY MARKET OCTOBEST AUCTION
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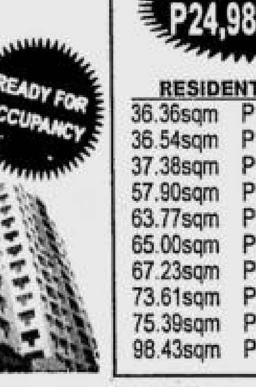

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Minimum Bid Price Starts at: P24,984.15/sqm.
Minimum Bid Price Starts at: P16,007/sqm.

RESIDENTIAL UNIT		COMMERCIAL UNIT	
36.36sqm	P 908,424.00	16.16sqm	P 322,718.40
36.54sqm	P 1,161,111.72	21.00sqm	P 447,488.00
37.38sqm	P 1,085,452.80	22.25sqm	P 569,600.00
57.90sqm	P 1,850,253.24	26.85sqm	P 687,360.00
63.77sqm	P 1,862,084.00	32.56sqm	P 521,216.00
65.00sqm	P 1,988,363.20	49.94sqm	P 843,763.20
67.23sqm	P 1,759,209.60	56.97sqm	P 1,151,308.80
73.61sqm	P 1,854,972.00	58.10sqm	P 1,412,992.00
75.39sqm	P 2,277,840.65		
98.43sqm	P 2,841,452.00		

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Exports up . . .

From page B1

The NSO also reported that the biggest export market for August was the United States, which accounted for 20 percent of the Philippines' total shipments for the month. Exports to the United States were valued at $691.77 million, or lower by 18.5 percent from last year's $848.7 million.

Other top markets were Japan, $472.2 million; the Netherlands, $354.18 million; China, $338.79 million; Hong Kong, $265.42 million; Korea, $232.08 million; Malaysia, $213.93 million; Singapore, $212.03 million; Taiwan, $156.69 million, and Thailand, $97.92 million.

FORTUNE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.
SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2003

ADMITTED ASSETS	DECEMBER 31, 2003
Bonds	P 77,167,348.72
Stocks	66,008,430.55
Real Estate	390,069,328.07
Mortgage Loans	32,143,524.00
Policy Loans	83,178,576.91
Other Loans	2,400,833.00
Security Fund	31,771.00
Other Investments	1,225,000.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks	247,074,873.01
Net Life Insurance Premiums and Annuity Considerations Due and Uncollected	54,436,479.87
Receivable from Life Insurance Pools	206,844.00
Investment Income Due and Accrued	9,610,166.72
EDP Equipment	2,425,441.32
Other Assets	10,146,303.41
Total Admitted Assets	**P 996,124,920.58**
LIABILITIES	
Aggregate Reserve for Life Policies and Contracts	P 468,100,381.11
Aggregate Reserve for Accident and Health Policies	416,260.00
Supplementary Contract Without Life Contingencies	2,538,846.93
Policy and Contract Claims	16,333,604.67
Policyholders' Dividends and Experience Refunds Due and Unpaid	30,159,154.30
Amount Due to Accepting Companies	2,317,374.10
Accrued Expenses	2,160,218.69
Unearned Investment Income	10,265.67
Taxes Payable	4,705,433.06
Accounts Payable	6,475,840.50
Other Liabilities	101,199,568.85
Total Liabilities	**P 634,404,989.00**
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Capital Stock Paid-Up	P 70,000,000.00
Contributed Surplus	9,363,700.00
Contingency Surplus	67,003,077.87
Fluctuation Reserve - Foreign Exchange	1,144,306.72
Fluctuation Reserve - Stocks	1,717,924.80
Fluctuation Reserve - Real Estate	226,710,254.29
Retained Earnings	(16,210,232.10)
Total Stockholders' Equity	**P 361,719,931.58**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY	**P 996,124,920.58**

(The synopsis, prepared from the 2003 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code)

Bargain . . .

From page B1

concerns that have kept most players on the sidelines.

"Most technical indicators suggest the market is ripe for bargain-hunting which is what foreign fund managers have slowly been doing," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.

Exchange records show that between Sept. 16 and Oct. 10 foreign investors were net buyers of equities here worth some P3 billion.

"Foreign players have been picking up stocks quietly, as if not wanting to be noticed," Rodrigo added.

Dealers said the peso's strength against the dollar and Monday's decline in yields of short-term government paper might also have boosted sentiment toward the equities market.

The prospect of rising interest rates had dampened enthusiasm for stocks in recent sessions because a further tightening in the central bank's monetary policy is likely to make fixed-income securities more attractive than equities. *AFP*

P390M for Mike cousin, zero for employees

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

AFTER LENDING P390 MILLION in company money to another Araneta that immediately went unpaid, Mike Arroyo cousin Benito "Bomboy" Araneta now is tightening the belt in the sequestered Philcomsat Group, resulting in the rank-and-file not being able to collect their salaries since last week.

The employee salaries have been withheld after the holdover Araneta board wrote banks about a Sandiganbayan TRO that effectively stopped Araneta and his group from being ousted in the cash-rich Philcomsat Group.

Because of the Sandigan order, the Equitable PCI Bank Buendia branch froze the depository account of the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp., from which the 28 employees draw their salaries.

Informed of the bank freeze, Equitable PCI Bank chair Ferdinand Martin Romualdez yesterday said he would consult with bank lawyers to see how the weekly paid employees could be insulated from the festering boardroom squabble between the Malacañang appointees and the majority private shareholders.

Despite a Supreme Court order that effectively said the government no longer holds majority control of the Philcomsat Group, Araneta and his fellow Malacañang appointee Manuel Andal managed to secure the Sandigan TRO late last month seeking to prevent the shareholders' meetings held the day before the Sandigan TRO was issued.

Armed with the 60-day TRO, the Araneta Group has prevailed on Philcomsat depository banks to allow his group to hang on to the cash deposits and receive multimillion-peso payments from Internet and satellite sales.

Originally P1.2 billion when Araneta was first appointed to the Philcomsat board by then President Estrada, the cash deposits had dwindled to about P721 million, according to the second quarter financial report of Philcomsat Holdings.

A Philcomsat Holdings director, stockbroker Prudencio Somera, whose block controls 10 percent of the publicly listed company, has expressed concern on the company's shrinking cash assets and ballooning "representation and legal" expenses.

SC flip-flops on paper ruling

ACTING on combined petitions from San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. and Menzi lawyer Manuel Montecillo, the Supreme Court had scheduled for yesterday afternoon oral arguments on their ownership claims over Manila Bulletin.

But the en banc hearing was cancelled after current Bulletin occupant, Emilio Yap, objected, claiming through his lawyers that more talk from lawyers would only "waste ... time."

Instead, the Supreme Court agreed with Yap lawyers that the respective counsels would just have to submit their respective memorandums to the tribunal.

The court order for the oral arguments was issued on Aug. 23. Yap submitted his opposition only on Oct. 3; the following day, the Supreme Court right away issued an order granting Yap's wish.

Money-go-round

- JAMES Go, chair of the Robinsons Retail Group, and Victor Fung, chair of the Li and Fung Group of Hong Kong, will announce today details of their agreement to open Philippine branches of the American store chain Toys R Us in select Robinsons malls.
- MAGSAYSAY Shipping heiress Doris Magsaysay Ho says her personal relations with Lorenzo Shipping chair Julio Sy Sr. remain excellent, despite Ho's ongoing takeover attempt on Lorenzo Shipping.

Ho made the clarification to correct whatever misimpressions may have been made by an Oct. 5 Cocktales column.

Heard through the grapevine

CRISTINA Ponce Enrile told this month's Philippine Tatler magazine that her husband, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, has so far had 37 girl friends—wow!—in their nearly five decades of marriage.

"At least those (that) I know of," writer Chit Lijauco quoted Mrs. Ponce Enrile as saying.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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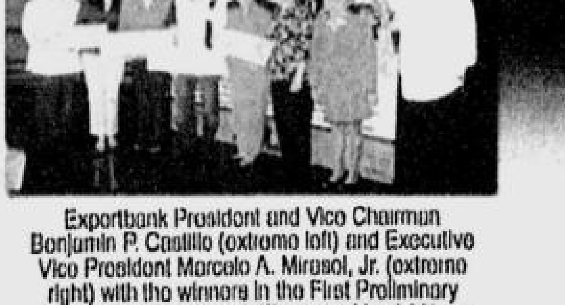
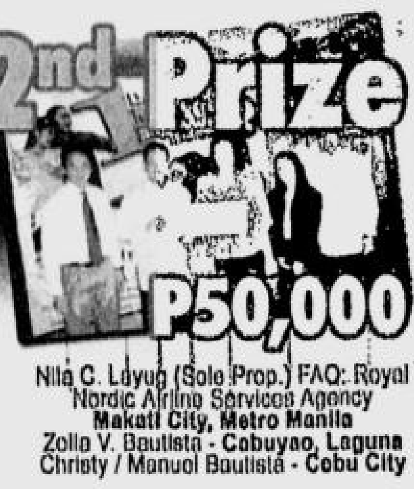


Exportbank President and Vice Chairman Benjamin P. Castillo (extreme left) and Executive Vice President Marcelo A. Mirasol, Jr. (extreme right) with the winners in the First Preliminary Draw of the Exportbank "Deposito Mo, 1 Milyon ang Panalo" Raffle Promo Part 2.



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CONGRATULATIONS to all the 1st RAFFLE DRAW WINNERS!

Exportbank held the First Preliminary Draw of the "Deposito Mo, P1-Million ang Panalo" Raffle Promo Part 2 at the Exportbank Lower Lobby Hall, Exportbank Plaza last September 16, 2005. Cash prizes were given away to a total of seventeen lucky winning depositors from Luzon, Metro Manila, and Vizmin areas under the supervision of Mr. Ferdinand Manfoste, Assistant Regional Director for Dept. of Trade and Industry, National Capital Region.

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THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY TAKES BOLD STEPS TO CURB CORRUPTION IN AUTO THIRD PARTY LIABILITY INSURANCE (CTPL)

The PHILIPPINE INSURERS AND REINSURERS ASSOCIATIONS INC. (PIRA), the umbrella organization of the Non-Life Insurance Industry, views with alarm the expose about the irregularities in the Auto CTPL Insurance business. As a result of this expose, public anxiety is agitated unjustifiably, besmirching the reputation of a large number of reputable Insurance companies as guilty perpetrators even if they are servicing only the CTPL requirements of their individual and corporate clients. The truth of the matter is that only a few nefarious characters control those fake CTPLs in connivance with some fixers and unscrupulous individuals.

While the Insurance Regulator issued a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) against a few erring companies, these nefarious characters employ subagents in the provinces where their activities cannot be monitored by the Insurance Commission.

The Non-Life Insurance Industry views this development with alarm because these illegal activities not only affect their legitimate business but also deprive the government of several hundred million pesos in VAT/documentary stamp tax.

In 2001, our association desirous of helping solve this anomaly, deployed a nationwide CTPL Authentication and Verification system. Without direct link to the LTO system however, we found it to be only 60% effective. With about 2.7 billion pesos in annual premiums to be gained, fixers near LTO areas took advantage of this loophole.

So, in January 2005 we voted to merge the three associations of the Non-Life Insurance Industry under PIRA. After an exhaustive study, we agreed with the Insurance Commissioner to forge one consortium, one master CTPL policy underwritten by all PIRA members, networked nationwide. We searched for the best payment and distribution solutions to link with banks and the LTO and converted the CTPL business process from traditional sales to enrollment and distribution.

Last August 1st, PIRA presented to the former Insurance Commissioner Benjamin S. Santos, the new CTPL process that we strongly believe, will stop the aforementioned corruption, secured with the necessary integrated linkages, open for audit and transparent to any examination. It will involve-

1. **Enrollment in a master policy-no more policy issuance.**
2. **Simplification of premium variants from 21 to 7 types only.**
3. **Enrollment for CTPL cover by paying through bank tellers, just like utility bills.**
4. **Payment of commissions to agents and brokers via ATMs using Ecards.**
5. **Synchronization of computer linkages - Banks send to LTO captured plate numbers or conduction stickers for the LTO to match when a customer comes for vehicle registration. Database, with call center, helps claims and online reports to IC, BIR, LTFRB and LTO.**

But some determined, unethical non-insurance players offered their own consortium management, with an incomplete service process, others with even an excessive 30% management fee. Since then our initiative has gotten entangled in debates and discussions with no positive progress. We suspect that strong external lobby pressure has been brought to bear upon the Insurance Commission, thus, resulting to the delay in the approval by the regulator of our industry recommended CTPL model.

We, in the Non-Life Insurance Industry under the umbrella of PIRA, believe in the integrity and effectiveness of our proposed model for a new CTPL process as it will address the issue of corruption and enable the government to collect approximately P600 million in VAT/documentary stamp tax annually and without leakages.

We look upon the reform initiatives of the Secretary of Finance, Margarito B. Teves, and the new Insurance Commissioner, Evangeline C. Escobillo, and the concerned government agencies like DOTC, LTFRB and LTO as tacit support for our proposed model that will, once and for all, solve the CTPL problem and provide real insurance benefits for the public.

PIRA,INC.
PHILIPPINE INSURERS AND REINSURERS ASSOCIATIONS, INC.
The Unified Association of All Non-Life Insurance Companies

ADVT

DOF: Excess tax collection report was preliminary, subject to change

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE has cleared the Bureau of Internal Revenue of responsibility over reporting a higher-than-actual tax collection for the month of September.

The DOF explained on behalf of the BIR that the earlier reported P600 million in excess tax collection for September was only preliminary and subject to change.

The BIR earlier submitted to the DOF a performance report for September which said that its tax collection stood at P39.1 billion, or P600 million more than the P38.5 billion target for the month.

Later, government reports showed that instead of an excess in collection, the BIR likely posted a shortfall of P800 million. *Michelle V. Remo*

NTC collects P2B as of Sept.

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has collected P2.07 billion in fees and charges as of end-September, exceeding the P1.78 billion collection target set by the budget department.

From January to August, the regulator collected P1.23 billion from its covered entities, which include telcos, broadcast firms and cable television operators, data from the NTC showed.

In September, the Commission hauled in P837.57 million from covered companies that managed to beat the end-month deadline for the payment of regulatory fees.

In 2004, the Commission collected almost P1.5 billion from fees and charges.

NTC chair Ronald Solis pointed out that a portion of the collection was due to a P550-million windfall arising from a compromise deal with Pilipino Telephone Corp. in February over the latter's unpaid regulatory dues of the previous years.

Int'l banks keen on bankrolling RP gold project

By Christine A. Gaylican

EIGHT FOREIGN BANKS HAVE expressed interest in financing the $35-million Siana gold project in Surigao del Norte, according to the company that holds the claim to mine the mineral wealth in the area.

ABN Amro Rothschild, ANZ Bank and the Bank of Macquarie are among those interested in bankrolling the Siana project.

"These are the probable banks who have recently approached us and are very interested to provide financing for our project here," said Colin Jackson, director of Australian mining firm Red 5 Ltd.

Red 5 Ltd., through its local subsidiary Greenstone Resources Inc. holds the mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) in the project.

Recently, First Metro Investment Corp. acquired 10 percent of Greenstone Resources.

Red 5 Ltd. is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange.

Jackson told the INQUIRER that foreign financing institutions are now more confident in doing business in the Philippines due to recent developments in the local mining sector.

Although the financing mix has yet to be finalized, Red 5 Ltd. and Greenstone Resources plan to source 70 percent of the project financing from the banks, while the remaining 30 percent will be derived from shareholders, Jackson said.

The area is said to contain about 1.55 million ounces of gold.

Red 5 Ltd. is expecting its pre-feasibility and feasibility studies to be completed in the first quarter of 2006, Jackson said.

The company has already spent some P80 million from the time mineral exploration began in early 2000.

After the project feasibility stage, mine plant construction will commence and mineral production will follow a year after.

"Independent technical reports indicate the potential to significantly steepen the pit wall slopes (reducing waste mining and storage) and significantly reduce operating costs in the process," Jackson said.

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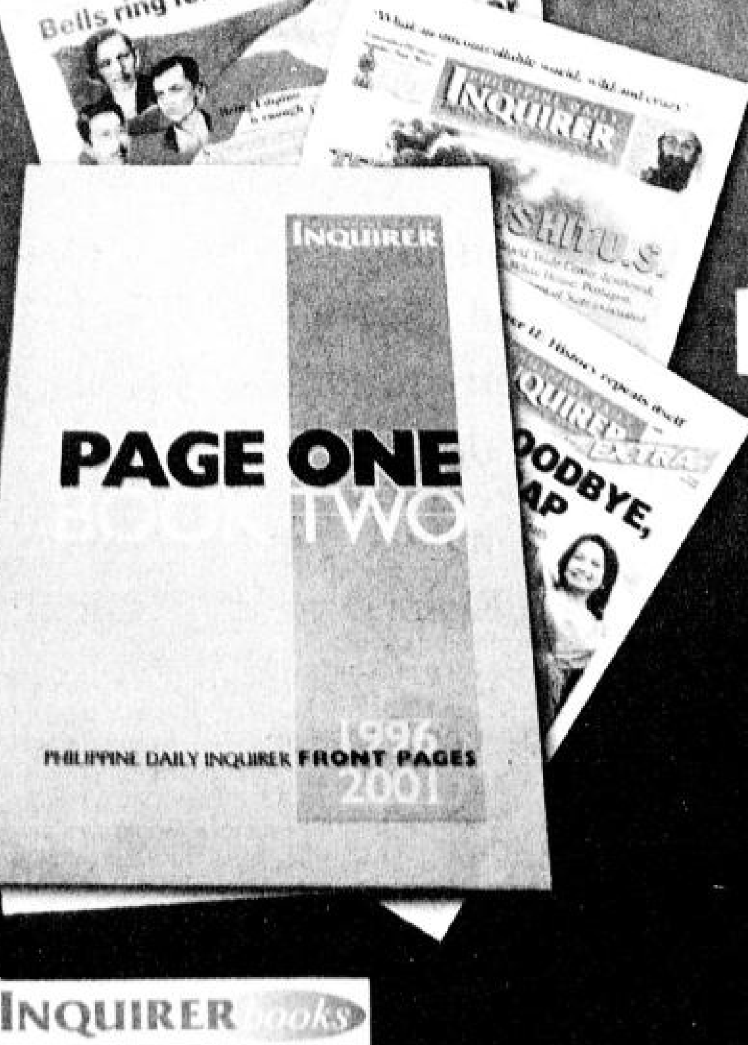

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

My 'first time' on an Audi

Text by Tessa R. Salazar
Photos by Alex P. Loinaz

THE STYLING of the new A4 is meant to be an evolution from cool and restrained to highly emotive.

IN EUROPE AND IN THE United States, the Audi brand lies on the same level as that of Mercedes-Benz and BMW insofar as actual product quality and market consciousness is concerned. Sadly for Audi in the Philippines, this particular line of fine German motoring craftsmanship had been mired for some time in corporate politics, enough to put a question on how any Audi dealership could provide aftersales services and support to its buyers, and thus put a dent on the "saleability" of the brand.

Fortunately for Audi, the dust has settled, and it is now clear PGA Cars is the sole local Audi distributor fully backed by Audi AG in Ingolstadt, Germany. And it's high time to put the sheen back in these cars and put them once more in their proper place—among Europe's most prestigious cars.

PGA Cars now imports all its Audis completely built-up straight from the Audi AG factory. So it would be safe to say that the Audi A4 2.0 multitronic that was handed to me for a spin over the weekend was lovingly, tenderly built by big, strong German hands. Well, give or take a cold, unfeeling German robotic arm or two.

Audi A4 owners

It would also be safe to say that even if only for that weekend, I would be among only a few thousand Filipinos driving around in a European luxury sedan. I would also have to force myself not to let my jaw drop, as I customarily do, whenever I pass by a gas station and see the attendants changing the price tags on the fuels again. I would have to dig deep into my thespic talents and look unaffected by a raging fuel economy tug-of-war.

And at the same time, I would also have to think like a man, a "made" man at that, because as the PGA folks had told me, 75 percent of all Audi A4 owners were male.

And so, with this in mind, I started the ignition on the 2.0-liter engine complemented with the multitronic transmission, which meant that it was a CVT (Constant Velocity Transmission) equipped with shift paddles for easy manipulation of the gearing when the driver wants to "take over."

Light, shadow effect

And so, thinking like a man, I checked out the "booty" first. Noticeable were the single-frame front grille, which designers made to lend the A4 a striking face and to amplify the car's poise. This also hinted at the large volume of air needed for the powerful engine of the car.

The narrower top half of the car compared to the lower half is brought about by the bold shoulder line above the wheel arches, defining the side view clearly and creating a light and shadow effect on the body's sides. This gives an impression of a sprinter about to take off.

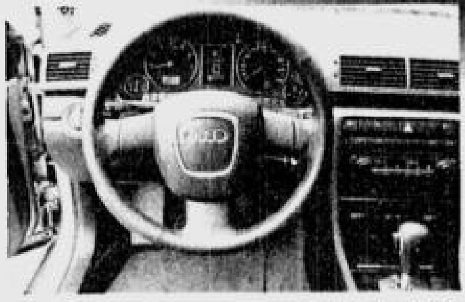
The side view mirrors has their outer third portion in wide angle, allowing the driver to have a better view of vehicles alongside and behind. Unlike other European brands, the right mirror of the A4 does not automatically dip upon reversing.

Gas mileage predictor

Moving into the inside, I noticed a nifty feature: a digital indicator on the dashboard that shows recommended service inspection intervals.

The gas mileage indicator is also part of the car's engine and transmission computerized electronic management system indicating the distance you could still travel given the current fuel level, taking into account the car's speed, the vehicle load and the engine's rpm (revolution per minute).

Both front seats of the A4 are electronically adjustable, which would be fine comfort-wise until you realize that such a system would require small motors to power them, which would, in turn, add weight to the car.



DOWNSHIFT paddle on the left, upshift paddle on the right (partly hidden behind the steering wheel).

Now why would Audi install such seats if there weren't any memory features such as that of the A4 1.8 Turbo multitronic, the A4 1.8 Turbo quattro, and the A4 3.0 multitronic? Even the competing BMW model 320i is not equipped with electronic seats, only fully adjustable ones. PGA Cars argued that electronic adjustable seats have been most sought after by its buyers. Well, in that case, we won't argue with that anymore.

It was also good that the dashboard instrumentation lights were red, which has been proven to minimize glare and prevent reduced nighttime vision.

The Audi Symphony Radio is still equipped with a cassette tape deck as well as a 6-disc CD changer. Audi sound people should start thinking about adding MP3 players soon.

And then there are the airbags. They're everywhere in the Audi: front, side, sideguard head airbags for the driver and front passenger, sideguard head airbags and side airbags for both rear passengers. I wonder if there's an airbag for the person in the trunk? John Statham the Transporter would certainly need one.

Not a turbo

I was all psyched up as I opened the hood, imagining a muscle car of sorts, and was a bit disappointed when I saw the engine wasn't turbocharged.

Oh, well, I thought. The Audi A4 2.0 is still an "entry-level" car for its segment. For owners who want to go turbo, there's literally a higher price to pay to acquire the A4 1.8 Turbo multitronic and A4 1.8 Turbo quattro. PGA argued that for the particular model segment in which the A4 2.0 belongs, a normally aspirated engine would have to do, considering the price and power criteria for this segment.

And remember, folks, I was looking at the car when it was just standing still. I hadn't even taken it for a spin yet. And when my team did try the actual power, handling and transmission, it turned out to be a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Admirable steering

The steering was admirable. It didn't give a hint of drifting or swaying when we floored it at the turns. We didn't sway. It stayed glued to the road and the curves with minimum steering input.

The car also delivers that firm suspension. I observed, though, that the steering got sort of heavy during parking maneuvers. But, thinking like a man, I poohpoohed the feeling and just rolled my sleeves up and loosened my tie, so to speak.

The Audi technical guys also dismissed my observation, saying the steering should be truly a feeling of being at ease, a benefit of the four-link front suspension design. The power steering is of the normal rack-and-pinion with hydraulic power assist.

The four link front suspension is coupled with the trapezoidal link rear suspension. Both are fully independent and are equipped with coil springs and telescopic shock absorbers. The suspension of the A4 is adopted from the Audi A6 and the S4.

ESP 8

We tried on the car's ESP 8 on wet roads. The front disc brakes are wiped free of water by automatic intermittent cyclical application of the brake pads, which results to safer short braking distances.

The transmission also comes with shift paddles mounted on the steering wheel. We toyed around with the shift paddle (which would allow us to go from first to seventh gear).

The A4 2.0 multitronic has a 2-wheel drive system. The A4 1.8 Turbo quattro, on the other hand, is equipped with an all-wheel drive system.

The A4 is also equipped with a rev limiter to prevent unnecessary engine wear once the tachometer limit is reached.

Verdict: Now that buyers from the luxury car segment have no excuse anymore to cross out the Audi brand from their shopping lists, the playing field just got bigger. For P2.65 million bucks (with standard and additional accessories), you can now choose between Mercedes' C Class, BMW's 3 Series, Jaguar's X-Type, Volvo's S40 and, of course, the Audi A4. We bet the gas companies are rubbing their hands together on this one.

Mini Part One

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

I HAVE YET TO FIND A PERSON who passionately dislikes these cars. Honestly, it is possible to be indifferent about their existence, but how can anyone hate the way they cleverly occupy space?

The design is so expressive that it seems to cheerfully pose and preen even in the worst of our traffic. The occasional white roof and the racing stripes may be a little too visually overboard for an already noticeable car, but Minis seem to be able to get away with it. Mini sightings, though few and far between, are enjoyable experiences and, personally, such encounters often make my automotive day.

Can you tell which Mini I was referring to in the earlier paragraph? Honestly, it does not matter if you imagined a classic Mini or the current BMW-backed effort. Drawn by both cars' charming panel work, it is often easy to just write the two off as more of the same, but this is not the case.

The current Mini owes much of its charm and draw to the original, but at the same time, it is essentially a very different kind of car. We have to understand then that the spirit and soul of the original car is truly remarkable and quite revolutionary. The new Mini is something of a Hollywood sequel—bigger, slicker, more expensive but only debatably more significant than the first.

The original Mini

The Mini story begins with a car conceived because of a fuel crisis. The year was 1956 and England was reeling in the wake of the Suez Canal Crisis. Small, fuel-efficient cars were making more and more sense at the time because of the gas rationing that was triggered by the unstable events in the Middle East.

This prompted then British automotive monopoly BMC to commission the design of an even smaller, proper car that seated four adults and displayed relatively good fuel efficiency. These very design parameters could very well have spelled an automotive disaster if the task of birthing the Mini was not left to the right man.

The problem fell into the lap of designer Sir Alec Issigonis whose then novel solutions to the design problem included making use of a transverse engine, front wheel drive, independent suspension and "rack and pinion" steering. His innovative, "out of the box" solutions for the Mini's design reads like the standard equipment list of many a contemporary car. It would not be out of place to say that; much of the way that modern econoboxes are designed is still directly attributable to the little car and its designer.

Full production

In mid-1958, Issigonis invited his boss, BMC chair Sir Leonard Lord, to test drive the new car around the factory grounds. Legend has it that after only five minutes, the boss ordered full production within a year. The first production cars began rolling off the assembly lines in May 1959 from the legendary Longbridge, Birmingham plant and at the Cowley facility in Oxfordshire.

Originally sold under either the Morris or Austin marquees of BMC, sales were initially slow. It was only in 1962 that the car began to fly off the showroom floors with some true pace as some 200,000 Minis were sold that year alone. This annual sales level would stay relatively consistent for the next 15 years, seeing the 3,000,000th Mini sold sometime in 1977.

It was during this era of immense popularity that the model name Mini started to become something of a popular culture icon. The car had made such an impact during this period that Mini actually became a brand in 1969. No fewer than 137 versions of this car have been built, with Traveller estate version and a Mini van/pickup as some of the more interesting. Built under the BMC brands Woseley and Riley, the Mini also came in coupé form, complete with a trunk.

The last classic Mini ever made was finished at 10:30 a.m. on the 4th of October 2000. This was something of a ceremony if you could imagine, complete with cut-out black arm bands that were printed in the English national dailies. The icon was finally put to rest, complete with the drama and ritual befitting the significance of the Mini. Forty-plus years of production saw 5.5 million of these cars made, most of which were assembled at Longbridge.

Heir apparent

Hardly had the fuss and fanfare about "the last Mini" died down, when the announcement of an heir apparent had been made. The Mini label was to leave English hands and continue life as part of German automobile manufacturer BMW's list of brands. Plans were already in place to revive the Mini brand for the new millennium, with production slated at the Cowley facility in Oxfordshire, of all places.

Tagged and marketed as the spiritual successor of the original Mini, the new Mini Cooper and Mini One models sought to deliver the same fun, dynamic drive that was also a large part of the original's myth.

Did the brand's new owners miss the points of economical ownership and innovative design completely? That's possible. The final and outright success of the new Mini is way beyond even my powers of divination; we'll have to give it some more time to make an impact. Maybe in another 40 years from now, the answer will be clear.

THE ORIGINAL Mini

Petron fires back

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I SAW A PILEUP OF VEHICLES AT THE SLEX (South Luzon Expressway) last week. I was on my way to Lipa's Malarayat, that impeccably all-weather course maintained beautifully all year-round by Mike Carr (who else?), when I saw the grisly scene: cars, pickups and a bus involved in the multiple collision. I hope nobody got hurt bad.

When I snooped around, my guess was confirmed: the rains made the Slex slippery. One vehicle crash triggered a chain reaction.

Again, my advice: never ever drive fast in the rains. And keep a distance farther than the usual.

Sometimes, we tend to ignore road signs. But the sign we should all heed when we are in any highway anywhere in the world is this: Slippery when wet!

Get the drift?

* * *

Now comes Petron on the issue of their broadcast and print ads regarding the purported "extra might" of the Petron Xtra Unleaded, a claim that has stirred a hornet's nest in the oil industry. The letter is unexpurgated for objectivity's sakes.

"Dear Mr. Mendoza,

"We read with great interest your column today (Oct. 5) in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. The unprecedented results of the Petron Xtra Unleaded power run done in April by motoring expert Pocholo Ramirez and his son, Louie, have spawned competitive reaction. Indeed, no other gasoline brand can claim to have best test-run by completely exhausting a full tank dry, which is how Petron Xtra Unleaded was tested, from Pagudpud to Sorsogon, the entire distance of 1,114 kilometers, on just one full tank.

"The results of the actual run on the Honda Jazz are irrefutable. The conduct of the entire run was observed and certified true by such prestigious authorities as the Automobile Association Philippines and the Car Awards Group Inc. It was done on stock cars at varying times of the day on real Philippine road, traffic and driving conditions, and with drivers' fatigue on the part of Pocholo and Louie who finished the run in two days. Our ongoing marketing communications campaign in all forms of media attest to the transparency and veracity of the test and its results.

"Many motorists have shared with us their own Xtra Mile stories. Some of these spontaneous and heart-warming feedbacks are published daily in major newspapers and aired in radio stations nationwide. We are touched at how positively the public has responded to our call for them to experience their own Xtra Mile. We will greatly appreciate your referring to us the concerns you mentioned in your column so that we may address them accordingly.

"More than the positive feedback we have been receiving, however, is the increased appreciation among the motoring public of the need to maintain their vehicles and improve their driving abilities, a significant facet of the Petron Xtra Unleaded advertising campaign. We take the promotion further through our advocacy for responsible motoring. Petron is holding a series of driving and car maintenance clinics together with our media partners and with motoring personalities and authorities. These clinics will enable and empower motorists to fully realize the benefits of driving efficiently with a truly economical gasoline.

"Meanwhile, together with our partners in Honda Cars Philippines, we cordially invite you to take part in the ongoing Honda-Petron Xtra Amazing Fuel Economy Run and the Honda Media Challenge.

"Please accept our sincerest wishes for your continued success.

"Very truly yours,
(Sgd.) Charmaine V. Canillas
Manager, Petron Advertising & Promotions"

* * *

Thank you very much, Madame Canillas. I feel honored by your letter. Thank you also for considering me a participant in the Honda events. If I could have the time, I'd gladly join.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Have a full tank always. These days, you'll never know when fuel prices increase.

* * *

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

From horsepower to fuel economy

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

CAR MANUFACTURERS here are introducing higher horsepower versions of models already in the market. Mazda recently phased out the 2.0-liter Mazda6 in favor of the 2.3-liter version; the 2.0L inline 4 Honda Accord disappeared from dealer showrooms when the 2.4L and V6 Accords showed up; the 2.4L and V6 Toyota Camrys replaced the 2.0L, 4-cylinder Camry while the 2.0L variants of the Ford Escape and Mazda Tribute gave way to the 2.3L and V6 models. This Friday, Ford is coming out with a 5-door Focus 2.0L Sport after launching the 1.6L Focus Ghia 4-door sedan only last July.

But in the United States, where gasoline has hit $3 a gallon or 79 cents (about P44.24) a liter, market demand is shifting to four cylinders as sales of cars with bigger engines slow down. In the third quarter through Sept. 18, data compiled by Power Information Network from US dealerships show a 26.6 percent increase in sales of four-cylinder engines from a year ago while eight-cylinder engines dropped 25.9 percent in sales from a year ago.

3 out of 4

Sales of the 4-cyl. Nissan Sentra jumped 66 percent in September while Honda Motor Co. noticed a trend, starting about a year ago, toward its 4-cyl, 166-horsepower Accord from the 6-cyl., 244-hp version. In fact, three out of four Accords sold in the United States now are the four-pot, which gets about 2.1 km more per liter than the six. Honda has revved up production of the 4-cyl. Accord.

Industry-wide, sales declined 18 percent for sport utility vehicles, pickups and minivans in the United States last month while rising 6.3 percent for cars. In a market where the average horsepower has jumped 80 percent since 1987 while fuel economy declined 5 percent, where family sedans have engines producing 250 hp and more, and where luxury cars with 300 or 400 hp are common, the trend toward smaller, fuel-efficient engines is being closely watched by automakers. But they are not making long-term decisions as yet since gas prices may ease back to $2 a gallon in the future.

Market share

Consumer perception that Japanese cars are highly fuel-efficient pushed up the market share of Nissan and Honda in September. Autodata said last week that Nissan's market share gained 16 percent from a year ago while Honda's jumped 12 percent, Toyota's rose 10 percent and South Korean Hyundai Motor's went up 9.1 percent. Meanwhile, General Motors sales fell 24 percent compared to last year while Ford sales dropped 19.5 percent. DaimlerChrysler, which is not as dependent on selling full-size SUVs like GM and Ford, posted a 3.7 percent increase in sales in September due to its hot-selling Chrysler 300 sedan.

Honda was boosted by a 37-percent increase in demand for its redesigned Civic compact, which reportedly gets 16.8 km per liter on the highway, double the mileage of most SUVs. Although Toyota has sold a record 106,978 gas-electric hybrids in the United States this year, more than the 2004 total for all automakers of 84,181, sales of its large Sequoia SUV—which lags behind the Chevy Tahoe in government fuel-economy ratings—plunged 47 percent. In the total US car market, SUVs have shrunk to 700,000 units a year from 900,000 and prices of used large SUVs declined 10 percent in the last few months.

GM hangs on

Despite the 12 percent slump in SUV sales in the first eight months of the year and its $1.4-billion loss in the first half of the year, GM will hang on to its traditional role of commanding half of the SUV market. Last month, GM unveiled its revamped, more aerodynamic large SUVs, including 2007 models of the Chevy Tahoe, GMC Yukon and Cadillac Escalade, plus a plan to promote these as the most fuel-efficient, powerful and stylish in their class. Government fuel economy tests rated the new Tahoe at 8.4 km per liter in combined city and highway driving, which is a bit better than the current model as well as the Toyota Sequoia and Nissan Armada.

Chrysler is also betting big on SUVs with plans to launch five all-new SUVs over the next few years, thus increasing the SUVs in its stable from five to 10. But only one will be full-size: the Chrysler Aspen, an upscale version of the Dodge Durango. Two will be midsize: a roomier, longer Jeep Wrangler and the Nitro, the first Dodge midsize SUV. Two new compact Jeep SUVs—the Compass and the Patriot—will round up the Chrysler Group's new offerings.

THE '06 HONDA Civic gets 16.8 km per liter.

More hybrids

Meanwhile Ford Motor, which together with GM profited in the billions from SUV sales when gasoline cost only $1 to $2 a gallon, announced plans to increase production of hybrid vehicles to 250,000 units annually by 2010. More than half of Ford, Lincoln and Mercury models will offer hybrid technology as an option.

On the other hand, 250,000 vehicles by 2010 would only match the number of hybrids Toyota will produce this year. Toyota plans to produce and sell 400,000 hybrid vehicles next year and by 2011, one million. But that's another story. *(With reports from The NY Times, AWSJ, AP, AFP, Bloomberg News)*

* * *

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See posters and flyers for more details
*Approved by DTI-NCR
Per DTI NCR Permit # 1654 Series of 2005

Spruce up your D-Max

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban

PROUD OF YOUR ISUZU D-MAX? YOU should be for having spent all that hard-earned money on it. However, if you think your pickup truck needs to be spruced up a bit to reflect your own style, then Isuzu Philippines Corp. (IPC) has several interesting suggestions to achieve just that.

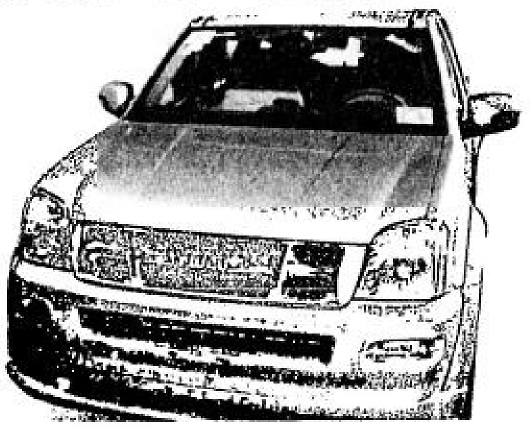
. In the recently concluded 10th Caltex Delo Sport Truck and Custom Car held at the SM Megatrade Hall in Ortigas Center, IPC tapped after-market specialists A-Toy Body Kits, Options Unlimited and Autozone to transform the D-Max into something extraordinary.

"The possibilities are endless. This event is meant to help D-Max owners and even those planning to buy one how to explore the possibilities in transforming the pickup truck," says IPC president Yoshifumi Komura.

According to Atoy Llave of A-Toy Body Kits, the already tough-looking D-Max can still be made cool, sportier or even intimidating depending on the owner's preference.

"When it comes to coming up with a preferred concept design, I have a network of associates who could supply the necessary parts and accessories—exotic-looking magwheels and tires; heart-pounding audio systems, original Thule roof racks, Bilstein performance shock absorbers; and even high-intensity discharge bulbs—to really achieve the look and performance required," reveals Llave.

IPC vice president for corporate business development Arthur Balmadrid explains that although the sport truck and custom car show ended Oct. 2, IPC through its various dealerships nationwide will be more than willing to assist D-Max owners and buyers in referring them to its after-market partners.



ALREADY possessing a character of its own, the Isuzu D-Max can still be transformed into almost anything that its owners would like it to project.

"It's only natural for car owners to want their vehicle to stand out from all the others. With this event and our continuing partnership with several after-market specialists, I believe IPC will be able to further strengthen its relationship with its customers," says Balmadrid.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5045. Series of 2005
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4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
6 WALLACE AND GROMIT
7 LAND OF THE DEAD
8 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
9 TRANSPORTER 2
10 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
4 ILUSYON
TULI
5 MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN
ANG DAAN PATUNGONG KALIMUGTONG
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2 INTO THE BLUE
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6 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
7 WALLACE AND GROMIT
8 WILD SIDE

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3 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
4 THE DESCENT

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
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Doctor leaves operating room for courtroom

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

CAREER TALES

"LAWYERS ARE LIARS," WAS THE constant reminder of her relatives when she was a little girl to discourage her from what she really wanted. Then at age 11, she experienced a painful loss that would steer her farther away from her true calling. But she couldn't turn her back on her true passion for too long. After almost a decade of exploration, she was finally back on track. At the age of 37, Dr. Elena Enriquez, a well-respected and successful practitioner in the field of anesthesiology, took the most unlikely path.

Without a moment's hesitation, she traded her medical books for legal cases and took up law. More than a decade later, Dr. Enriquez is now more known as Attorney Enriquez.

Keeping a promise

"Relatives tell me that they thought I would be a lawyer because I learned to speak straight very early in life," says Enriquez. In spite of what her kin saw, they discouraged the young Enriquez to take the "liar's path." She decided to be a doctor instead.

This resolve was further strengthened at the age of 11 when her mother passed away. "I felt then that it was unfair. There were certain circumstances surrounding her death, which gave me the impression that the physician attending to her was more interested in having breakfast than in answering an emergency call from the hospital where my mother was confined," recalls Enriquez.

She swore from then on that as a doctor, her patients' needs would always be her priority. "Children would not have to suffer the same pain that my family and I suffered." Enriquez fulfilled her promise and took up medicine at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) graduating with a grade of *bene meritus*. She completed her medical internship at the Makati Medical Center and later became certified as a specialist in anesthesiology. For years, she catered to the physical needs of her patients and shielded them from pain at the De los Santos Medical Center and the St. Luke's Medical Center. It was a noble role that Enriquez tried to embrace as much as she could, but there was a constant tug in her heart that she couldn't ignore. "As time passed, I became more and more restless. I began to feel like a square peg in a round hole."

Rediscovering law

At some point in her practice, Enriquez was assigned to the management of the hospitals' operating room and emergency room. The new responsibility further triggered her interest in the legal aspects of the practice of medicine and the operation of a hospital.

To prepare for her added responsibilities, Enriquez took a course in hospital administration. She completed her academic requirements for the degree in masters in hospital administration and was completing her thesis when she read the announcement for entrance examinations of the UST Faculty of Civil Law in the papers. "I said to myself, this is it, it's now or never," the young doctor said.

Without hesitation, Enriquez applied. It was the second semester, and it would mean starting in the middle of the school year, but Enriquez waited for more than a decade; she could no longer wait for the next school year. Everything came quickly then. She applied, took the exams and before long, she was attending civil law classes along with students so much younger than she was.

Difficult transition

Between work and the daily demands of life, squeezing in school proved to be a challenge. "I had no doubts about my decision to be a lawyer. What school tested was my resolve to be one. School was very difficult. The pressure was tremendous," Enriquez admits. In her late 30s and already an established professional, she felt the need to prove herself amongst her younger classmates. According to Enriquez, she didn't want to be bested by the "kids" in her class.

Working doubly hard, Enriquez persevered because she knew this was what she had always wanted. "It takes a particular mindset to start again," she shares. "The change carries many difficult challenges with it, and many disappointments too." The hard work no doubt paid off. She graduated valedictorian and was soon admitted to the Philippine Bar Association. Doctor soon became a paralegal and eventually an associate attorney at the law firm of Norberto Gonzales.

From administering general and local anesthetics, Enriquez was suddenly neck deep in civil law litigation and labor law cases. In about a year's time, she moved to the Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De los Angeles law firm as Senior Litigation Associate handling civil and criminal law litigation, contract and corporate law, construction arbitration and the rendering of opinions on various aspects of Philippine law, including labor issues. In fact, she was even part of the panel of private prosecutors in the Estrada impeachment.

Broader horizon

The attorney claims that she loved how her newfound profession gave her a "broader horizon." "There is much to learn as you work on a case. If you are working on a case that involves electrical engineering issues, you have to learn that electrical engineering aspects of the case; if you are working on a case that involves technical telecommunications issues, you have to learn about the technical aspects of telecoms."

Enriquez also finds a sense of fulfillment in practicing law especially when she is able to draw up a legal theory that could turn a losing case into one that has a reasonable chance of winning.

Enamored with the law, Enriquez totally gave up on administering ether, sodium pentathol and nitrous oxide. "I use my medical knowledge now only when I teach and when I work on a case where there are issues involving medicine, such as medical malpractice cases." Aside from her law practice, she is also a faculty member of civil law at the UST teaching civil law, legal forensic medicine and trial techniques. She also teaches forensics at the Ateneo School of Law.

Enriquez admits that she doesn't miss the medical practice, and it's probably because she still is very much surrounded by it. The lawyer is an active member of the Philippine Medical Association and the Philippine Society of Anesthesiology as a legal adviser. She also handles several medical malpractice cases so she is still often going through her medical books.

ENRIQUEZ RAYMOND S. SOBERANO

On her own

Constantly looking for challenges and opportunities for growth, Enriquez eventually left the firm and put up her own. After almost seven years at the Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De los Angeles law firm, Enriquez focused on a private law practice with the MERE Law Office. "I just started my office in August so I'm still discovering the difficulties, but I would say the most difficult [thing] right now is the financial aspect because I never really paid attention to it while I was with the firm," confesses the attorney.

She says, she always relied on the accounting people of her former firm. The new MERE Law Office head also misses the small conveniences of being a part of a big law firm like having an extensive library. "I also miss being able to pop my head into the office of one of the lawyers in the firm to ask for advise on matters pertaining to the work. I was in a comfort zone. Here it's just me. Sometimes it's scary."

On her own, Enriquez has no regrets. She claims that she tries not to take herself too seriously and has developed a sense of humor to keep sane. Moving from the operating room to the courtroom, Enriquez believes she is exactly where she wants to be in right now. And although she no longer sees herself shifting to another field in the future, she believes that one can decide to change careers at anytime in his or her life, the important thing is, determination and knowing what one wants. "Also, pray. As you go through the difficulties, you will realize that you can hardly ever do anything alone."

(*E-mail feedback to* candyvillanueva@pldtdsl.net)

CPA wants to become a teacher

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

IT HAS BEEN my deepest desire to write to you and I am glad that I am able to do it this time. My present predicament has something to do with my plan of veering towards another career. I am presently working in the government sector as an accountant. Prior to that, I was a financial analyst of a foreign-assisted project of the same agency. At first, I liked my job, the people I'm working with, and the office as a whole.

Admittedly, my salary is not high enough to keep pace with the soaring prices of commodities in spite of being single. But, what really disturbs me is that I feel that I am no longer interested in doing the kind of job I am doing now. I have this feeling of a being in a job plateau and I don't find meaning in my current work.

So to aid my future vision, I took up a course on Special Education. I have always wanted to become a teacher. I know now that teaching is my passion. This decision may be long in coming but I do believe my move is well-thought of. I also know that the work of a teacher is a very taxing job but very rewarding and stimulating. This upcoming semester, I am thinking of taking up a masters in education.

Am I on the right career track? Please provide me a tip or two as to other development programs that I need to take aside from taking my masters. My colleagues and my family are not quite convinced with my decision. Thank you very much and I wish you the best.

CPA Teacher

You are in transition, moving from doing accountancy work to teaching. How beautiful to know that people like you want to teach and you are willing to upgrade your skills to do excellent work. I am sure with your rich experience, you will benefit and inspire many students. I perfectly understand the professional and psychic rewards of teaching.

However, from your letter, I can also sense the desire for improved pay and a certain level of security at work. This may be the concern of your colleagues and your family who are not convinced of your decision. But I suggest you follow your heart while facing up to your financial situation.

I suggest that you continue on with your government job until you earn your masters. Your studies should be enough to stimulate and perk you up meantime. They will provide some variety to your office work. Having a stable job will enable you to fund your studies.

After graduation, then you can resign and get a full-time teaching job. I am sure universities would welcome you to be part of their faculty. You can even teach accounting subjects, if you wish. In this manner you are able to teach your original discipline plus other subjects that inspire you.

In addition to getting your masters, get units on teaching methods and syllabus development. Then, spend some time reflecting on your life mission and vision. I believe when your profession is aligned with your personal vision and mission, every day becomes a meaningful adventure at work.

By the way, to those who wrote wanting to help build the library of our letter writer two issues ago, I wish to inform you that she works in a public high school in Pangasinan. Thank you and God bless.

(*Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training.* Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

How do you manage a virtual team?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I'VE HAD a lot of success managing teams. But suddenly I'm in charge of a virtual team full of telecommuters. None of my old approaches are working.

Out of Sight

Given the high levels of obesity in kids, the Cadbury Company launched a campaign in the UK where candy labels could be redeemed for sports equipment. The only problem is that for a kid to just burn off the calories required to win a basketball, he or she would have to play for 90 hours.

And trying to manage a virtual team often feels just as futile. You often feel like you put in a lot more effort than you'll ever see in return. I've listed some strategies below to help your team be more productive. For more, check out "Teams that Click" (Harvard Business School Press, 2004).

Do you mega-communicate? I've done a variety of stints as a virtual worker and I've learned how hard it can be to just stay current on what is happening back at the home office. That's why it's so important for leaders to give regular updates on company information, competitor updates, new staff, etc. Take the time to fill in some of the gaps for your distance workers and you'll be surprised at how much they still feel part of the team.

Do you have a clear mission? It's important for any team to be working off the same page, but it's essential when it's a virtual team. It's easy to get cynical about vision or mission statements, but in this case they're very important to keep people working off the same page.

Do you assume nothing? It is easy when you are running a staff meeting to be monitoring people's body language and other subtle ways to measure commitment, participation, etc. It's a lot tougher to read between the lines of an e-mail or listen to people's voices over a conference call. So it's important to take the time to check in with people and to pursue any little disconnects that you come across. For example, when a normally talkative person starts to withdraw, you want to find out if there are larger problems behind the sudden silence.

Do you bring your staff together at least occasionally? It's always helpful for your team to occasionally do face-to-face meetings. Heck, it's just nice to remember what the people who work for you look like. Create training programs or special events where your team can come together to work and learn together.

Do you go out of your way to recognize great performance? My biggest lesson from working on a virtual team is how seldom you are recognized for your performance. In a staff meeting it is easy to point out great performances, but in a conference call, those kind of messages can easily fall by the wayside. Invest effort both individual, and with the group as a whole, to recognize jobs well done.

Follow these rules and your virtual team will deliver sweet rewards.

(*Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

Guidance counselors talk about their true calling

By Raissa Claire Rivera
Contributor

THIS YEAR MARKS THE THIRD THAT the Ateneo High School Guidance Department celebrates Guidance Week, a week-long series of talks focusing on issues that concern teenage boys. The dedicated counselors devoted much time and effort to the planning and coordination of these talks, which included guest speakers as diverse as a rehabilitated drug addict (for drug prevention talks) and a beauty queen (to talk about the woman's viewpoint on relationships), as well as professionals from lawyers to chefs. In between handling the talks, they naturally attended to their usual tasks of listening to and advising students.

In this interview with People at Work, the more senior members, Benedict Balaoing and Ed Caligner, talked passionately of the field that they have worked in for over a decade. Balaoing is currently the head counselor or guidance director and Caligner is the former head of the department and is now a fourth year counselor. He has also been a guidance counselor in Assumption and in Lourdes School.

The younger counselors who participated in the interview also shared their great satisfaction with counseling work, especially at the Ateneo, comparing their current experience favorably with their previous jobs. Jayson Tan is an Ateneo graduate who worked at Xavier and at a call center before joining the Ateneo guidance staff last November. He is now a third year counselor. Willi Baclao, another third year counselor, used to be a religion teacher. Carlo Carlon, a former seminarian with training in counseling, worked at a consulting company affiliated with the Ateneo professional schools before becoming a third year counselor at the High School. Marlon Buena was a guidance counselor at Siena College before becoming a second year counselor at the Ateneo.

ATENEO high school guidance counselors: (standing) Marlon Buena, Jayson Tan (sitting, from left to right) Willi Baclao, Ed Caligner, Carlo Carlon and Benedict Balaoing

Sitting in the spacious Duffy Guidance Center in the Ateneo High School, they eagerly answered the questions put to them.

ON THE SPOT

People at Work (PaW): What makes the Ateneo guidance program unique?

Ed Caligner: The Ateneo Guidance program is unique in that it is preventive. We seek to prevent problems as well as to solve them.

Marlon Buena: It answers the needs of the students. For example, our guidance week... LSS [Life Skills Session, drug awareness and prevention program] for the second year, sex talk for the first year, career explorations for the third year and educational explorations for the fourth year. So we have many programs.

Carlo Carlon: I never had a difficult time adjusting because there was already a system, a structure, whereas in other schools, for instance, when I was in high school counselors in certain schools will take up other duties, which are not really counseling activities. That's the difference: we focus really on counseling. And, secondly, we have programs specifically per year level. It's developmental from first year to third year.

Benedict Balaoing: There are more male counselors. It's still a female-dominated profession, but here we have many male counselors. For me, I don't see any unique program that Ateneo is having compared to the other good schools that are our equal... What is unique in Ateneo is the way we do things. That's the only difference because for me, what makes it unique is the background of the school, the culture of the school... the "Jesuit-ness" of the school. Some of our programs are also existing in other schools but they have their own way of doing things. There are also other good schools, better schools in a way... But, I would still say we are the best (*general laughter*).

(*To be continued next week.*)

(*E-mail feedback to* rais1724@yahoo.com)

Forex reserves seen to remain at $18B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS EXpects its gross international reserves to remain up at $18 billion by the end of the year despite its debt servicing requirements and pressures from the widening trade gap.

The foreign exchange reserves breached the $18-billion mark for the first time in September, with the amount hitting an all-time high of $18.59 billion.

For the remainder of the year, however, a BSP official said the GIR level would be reduced due to payments of maturing debts.

Despite this, the official said the GIR level should remain close to $18 billion.

Despite a rising trade deficit, partly due to the skyrocketing oil import bill, the BSP expects the country to continue benefiting from strong foreign exchange inflows, particularly those from overseas Filipino workers.

The BSP expects cash transfers from OFWs to grow by at least 10 percent this year to $10 billion and by another 10 percent next year.

The GIR—consisting of the the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments—is an indication of the country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy, especially for importation and debt servicing.

The BSP taps its foreign reserves to supply dollars to the spot foreign exchange market whenever there is a need to quell speculative attacks against the local currency. A high GIR build-up thus provides psychological support for the peso.

The stronger GIR this year was supported by proceeds from fresh public sector loans and robust foreign exchange inflows.

Strong investment inflows are likewise boosting the GIR level, with both direct and portfolio investments rising from to last year's levels.

Despite the surging of the oil import bill, the BSP aims to build up its GIR to a new high of $18.65 billion by next year from the projected $17 billion this year, equivalent to 3.4 months worth of imports.

As the global economy appeared headed for a slowdown this year, the BSP had factored in the possibility that the country could not rely on export earnings alone to generate foreign exchange inflows.

Monterey sales up 12% to P4B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL CORP. SAID ITS MEAT BUSIness posted a 12-percent growth in sales to P4 billion in the first eight months of the year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), the company said the total sales volume for the period 9 percent, mainly due to incrases in the demand for pork.

Monterey pork sales increased 24 percent for the eight month period ending August. Pork accounts for 80 percent of Monterey's sales volume.

The increased availability of Monterey products to consumers—notably the addition of 17 supermarket meat shops and 11 neighborhood Monterey Meat shops—contributed to the sales volume growth.

Monterey's beef products and other value-added cuts and specialty meats accounted for a total of P 1.02 billion in revenue.

The Monterey meat business started as a cattle ranch in Isabela. Monterey Foods now runs the biggest hog and cattle operation and employs the latest technology in breeding, slaughtering, and meat processing.

Monterey has a fully-integrated operation. It operates a major slaughter house and fabrication plant in Dasmariñas, Cavite, the first "AAA" slaughterhouse in the Philippines to be given HACCP accreditation by the Department of Agriculture's National Meat Inspection Service (DA-NMIS).

Both HACCP and ISO are internationally recognized standards, the former relating to hygiene, sanitation and food safety while the latter deals with quality management system.

Monterey has seven hog farms in Bulacan, Batangas, and Cavite and two cattle farms in Isabela, and General Santos.

These are not very encouraging times, but there are still a whole lot of reasons to be thankful and happy about!

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MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192169817

QUEZON CITY

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SAN JUAN

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QUEZON CITY

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

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QUEZON CITY

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1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 3732061/62

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966830/33

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PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 8101-8104 Direct Line: 840-8084/ Fax No.: (632) 840-1499

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its 2005 Corporate Budget, intends to apply the sum of Six Million Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Seven and 35/100 Pesos (Php6,017,997.35) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **JANITORIAL AND GENERAL MANPOWER SERVICES FOR PNOC EC'S ENERGY SUPPLY BASE** (the "Project"). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the bid opening

PNOC EC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **JANITORIAL AND GENERAL MANPOWER SERVICES FOR PNOC EC'S ENERGY SUPPLY BASE** in Mabini, Batangas. The contract duration for the Project is two (2) years

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the Project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from PNOC EC's Procurement Section (c/o Ms. Janis C. Pabian) starting **October 12, 2005** at PNOC EC Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00).

PNOC EC will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties on **November 11, 2005, 1:30 P.M.** at PNOC EC's Energy Supply Base in Mabini, Batangas.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted in three (3) sets each to PNOC EC's Bids and Awards Committee **not later than 3:00 P.M. on November 23, 2005** at PNOC EC Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The bids, including the eligibility requirements, shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. **Late Bids shall not be accepted.**

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net

(Sgd.) Jose M. Bijansantos
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI October 12, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632)920-6401 *(632)920-6446
E-mail: sssmail@info.com.ph* Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
CONSUMABLES/PARTS FOR NON-IMPACT PRINTER FOR SIEMENS NIXDORF LASER PRINTER MODEL 2090

1. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*, through the (OSD) Bulk Purchase 2005 intends to apply the sum of P4,673,089.34 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Consumables/Parts for Non-Impact Printer for Siemens Nixdorf Laser Printer Model 2090. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Consumables/Parts for Non-Impact Printer for Siemens Nixdorf Laser Printer Model 2090. Delivery of the GOODS is required within fifteen (15) calendar days after contract signing/receipt of purchase order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis payable at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Bldg. Ground floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 28, 2005 at 3:30p.m. at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building on November 11, 2005 not later than 2:00p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in Cash or Manager's / Cashier's check payable to the Social Security System amounting to P46,730.89 (1% of ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on November 11, 2005 at 2:00p.m. at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the given address.
9. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bid and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel # 922-2991; 924-7380; 920-6401 local 5491
Email – bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number – (02) 924-7380

(Sgd.) THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - Oct. 12, 2005)

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.

Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS
MAKATI PROPERTY IDEAL FOR AN "IT PARK"

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO) of the Republic of the Philippines invites interested parties to participate in the Offer for Sale for the National Government-owned asset, which is the former site of INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA, INC. (ISM), with an aggregate area of 48,832 square meters, together with the school buildings and other improvements existing thereon, located at the ISM compound at Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City, on an "AS-IS, WHERE-IS" basis.

The asset is being offered as one package with a Floor Price of PESOS: ONE BILLION ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY SIX MILLION FIVE HUNDRED NINETY SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY (P1,186,596,750).

Offers will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of the offerors on November 17, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

An information Package consisting of the Sale Documents and the Asset Specific Catalogue (ASC) on ISM shall be made available to parties who register their interest and pay a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Thousand (P5,000), Philippine Currency.

For details, please call the Marketing Department at telephone numbers 818-4733; 892-2145; fax no. 818-0906.

PMO reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any or all offered price related to this invitation.

In the event this Offer for Sale becomes a failure, PMO reserves the right to accept proposals for the asset.

(PDI-Oct. 12, 13 & 14, 2005)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPINES

Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved	Source of
2005-281	200 units BATTERY Maintenance-Free/Sealed Type 12 Volts DC x 110 AH (including pull-out of old units and installation of brand new ones)	P 2,900,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements are scheduled on October 26, 2005 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **October 13, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

(PDI - October 5 & 12, 2005)

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

LA/MAT/07637/2004 (N82)
FCMC 754/2005

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
MATRIMONIAL CAUSES NO.754 OF 2005

BETWEEN

CORPUZ VIOLETA ERIVE Petitioner

and

CORPUZ ROLAND Respondent

NOTICE

A DIVORCE PETITION HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST THE RESPONDENT CORPUZ ROLAND of unknown address who may apply to the Family Court Registry at, M2 Floor, Wanchai Tower, No. 12 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong for a copy of the Petition. If within one month he has not communicated with the Registry, the Court may hear the case in his absence.

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PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5285

PNOC

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Eight-(8)Units of Skid-Mounted Remanufactured Engine Under FGO 50207
Approved budget: PHP 7,600,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Roderick R. Cabantog starting October 12, 2005, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **October 20 2005, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Procurement and Materials Management Division, at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. (Procurement Department Office Wall Clock time) on November 10, 2005. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission / execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI-Oct. 12 & 19, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
General Santos City

INVITATION TO ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of General Santos hereby invites interested bidders/contractors classified and registered by the Inter-Agency Committee for the following projects:

NAME OF PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT / FUND SOURCE
1. CONSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CENTER, BRGY. DADIANGAS WEST HALL, GSC Scope of Work: a. Construction of 2-storey building approximately 35.60sq.m. for ground floor and floor slab at second floor 35.60 sq.m., 2-units comfort room at ground floor, door and window at ground floor, finishing and ceiling, electrical, sanitary works at ground floor, masonry works for ground and second floor. Project Duration: 90 CALENDAR DAYS	534,535.39 Source of Fund: CY 2004 AB
2. REHAB./REPAIR OF FORMER NDC BLDG.(for CEO & CGSO use), CEO COMPOUND, BULA, GSC Scope of Work: a. Rehab./Repair of 180.00 sq.m. floor area w/28.80 sq.m. roofing area includes concrete works, masonry works, steel works, roofing works, carpentry works, metal doors/windows, electrical works, demolition, excavation, embankment & other misc. Project Duration: 70 CALENDAR DAYS	2,435,196.10 Source of Fund: CY 2002 SB # 2
3. KAPLAB DRAINAGE, BARANGAY DADIANGAS SOUTH, GSC Scope of Work: a. Kaplab Drainage at Barangay Dadiangas South composed of 7ln. m open lined canal, 118m of 601 RCCP with curb & gutter, 1-unit headwall, 1-unit wingwall, removal of existing concrete pavement & removal of other structures affected by the project. Project Duration: 71 CALENDAR DAYS	1,335,731.48 Source of Fund: CY 2004AB & CY 2005AB
4. INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM Scope of Work: b. Geometric improvement, installation of traffic signal system, installation of road signs and pavement markings. Project Duration: 130 CALENDAR DAYS **Note: contractor/bidder should have undertaken at least 100 similar projects, other criteria please refer to BAC and www.gensantos.gov.ph**	8,264,620.99 Source of Fund: CY 2004AB
5. PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE @ CAMIAS ST., CASQUEJO SR., LAPU-LAPU ST. TO SANTIAGO BLVD., GSC Scope of Work: a. Drainage line composed of 130.63m, 119.00m of 36" dia RCCP, 6.0m of 24" dia RCCP with curb & gutter and 6 units of manhole with cover, includes embankment, dewatering and removal of existing structures affected by the project Project Duration: 80 CALENDAR DAYS	895,110.01 Source of Fund: CY 2003AB
6. PARTIAL ROAD CONCRETING W/ DRAINAGE @ LITANVILLE PHASE 1 & PHASE 2, SINAWAL Scope of Work: a. Partial Rd Concreting composed of 514.84 ln.m., 500m wide w/ 2 types of drainage open lined canal for type 1 concrete 52.8 ln. m., for type 2-4" CHB load bearing 1000 PSI, 20 ln.m w/ 3 transition wall also includes clearing & grubbing of 1pc. Tree, & removal of existing pavement affected by the project. Project Duration: 80 CALENDAR DAYS	2,495,673.04 Source of Fund: CY 2004 & 2005AB
7. ADDITIONAL DRAINAGE LINE ALONG SALAZAR ST., GSC Scope of Work: a. Construction of drainage composed of 258ln.m. of 24" dia. RCCP & 3ln.m. of 12" dia. RCCP w/ curb & gutter, also includes clearing & grubbing of 2 pcs. Trees, removal of driveways/open lined canal w/ cover & sidewalk, curb & gutter, other structures & obstruction affected by the project. Project Duration: 70 CALENDAR DAYS	1,069,622.87 Source of Fund: CY 2005 SB # 1
8. CONTINUATION OF BEAUTIFICATION/IMPROVEMENT OF OVAL PLAZA (COMPLETION OF STAGE EXPANSION/RENOVATION AT OVAL PLAZA), GSC Scope of Work: b. Continuation of beautification/improvement of oval plaza completion of stage expansion/renovation at oval plaza approximately 100% of the total building area. It includes backfill/embankment, concrete works, masonry works, smooth finished plain cement plaster,; ceiling works, tile works and floor finishing, doors/windows, painting works, plumbing fixtures, electrical works and other miscellaneous items. Project Duration: 70 CALENDAR DAYS	2,276,749.42 Source of Fund: CY 2004 AB

Deadline for submission of eligibility documents : October 17, 2005, 5:00 PM @ BAC Office, 2nd Flr., City Hall Bldg., GSC
Issuance of Bid documents for Eligible bidders : October 26, 2005 BAC Office, 2nd floor, City Hall Bldg., GSC
Pre-Bidding Conference : November 3, 2005, 10 AM, City Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall, GSC
Dropping of Bids : November 15, 2005, 10 AM, BAC Office, 2nd floor, City Hall, GSC
Opening of Bids : November 15, 2005, 10 AM, BAC Office, 2nd floor, City Hall, GSC

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, BAC Office, 2nd flr. City Hall, Bldg. GSC (tel nos. 083-301-3834 and 083-301-0553). Above projects were posted also @ www.gensantos.gov.ph and www.procurementservice.org.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO O. SALANGSANG
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Oct. 5 & 12, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development – Bicol
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTTEE
Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054)473-2334; (054)473-89-36 Fax no. (054)473-89-36; (054)473-2334; (054)8112227
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1 The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER, through **General Appropriations Act of 2006** intends to apply specified sums for the following projects:

a. Project: Procurement of Medical Gases-(IAEB No. 2005-012)
Approved Budget for the Contract. **THREE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY Philippine Pesos (Php 3,838,920.00) (GAA)**
Sale of Bid Documents October 5-20, 2005
Pre-Bid Conference October 20, 2005 – 9:00AM-BMC Library
Bid Opening November 3, 2005 - 9:00AM-BMC Library

b. Project: Procurement of Janitorial Services – (IAEB No. 2005-013)
Approved Budget for the Contract. **FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (Php4,800,000.00) (GAA)**
Sale of Bid Documents October 5-20, 2005
Pre-Bid Conference October 21, 2005 – 9:00AM-BMC Library
Bid Opening November 4, 2005 - 9:00AM-BMC Library

c. Project: Procurement of Security Services – (IAEB No.2005-014)
Approved Budget for the Contract. **TWO MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (PHP2,500,000.00) (GAA)**
Sale of Bid Documents October 5-20, 2005
Pre-Bid Conference October 21, 2005 – 9:00AM-BMC Library
Bid Opening November 4, 2005 – 2:00 PM-BMC Library

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

2. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects. Delivery of Goods required as stated in the Special Conditions of the Contract for each project.

The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4 Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00A.M. to 12:00Noon; 1:00P.M. to 5:00P.M.,** except weekends and Holidays.

5 A complete set of Bidding Documents for each project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **TWO THOUSAND Philippine Pesos** (PhP2,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6 Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:

1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)
2. Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)
3. Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)

Late bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative/s who choose to attend at the address below.

8. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Address: BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054)473-2334, (054)473-89-36
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax no. (054)473-89-36, (054)473-2334; (054)811-2227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Contact Person: RODOLFO C. URSUA, MD, FPCS,FPUA
Medical Specialist II and BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) RODOLFO C. URSUA, MD, FPCS,FPUA
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Oct 12 & 18, 2005)

OBITUARIES

Lt. MAURO MAGPILI, Sr.

United States Army for the Far East (USAFFE) and of
Calapan Polytechnic University (formerly Calapan School of Trade)
of Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro

on the occasion of his
10th Death Anniversary

his wife Mrs. Luz Cortez-Magpili

his children & children-in-law Myrna & Rene Pascua, Linda & Benjie Guilles, Atty. Marlo † & Poly Magpili; Engr. Ariel & Vicky Magpili; Amb. Marita & Engr. Eli Jimenez; Mauro Jr. & Cristy Magpili; Dr. Raelene Hernandez & Marisel & Boyet Hernandez; Francis †
his grand children Myrene; Michael & Tin; Michelle; Benjamin & Stephanie; Lynnbei; Aaron; Mark & Rochelle; Honey Anne & Anthony; Melissa; Mylene & Ariel; Rachelle & Nido; Nina, Mauro Felipe; Marco; Arvi & Mico; Lira & Arman; Diego; Ana Luz; Kristoffer & Theresa; Catherine; Carlo; Mikha; Richard; Gabriel; Amica; Ayra; Roma; Andrew; Beau; Chantelle; Danica; Elena Sofia; Fiona; Gabrielle; *his great grand children* Miguel; Matthew; Benjamin Stephan; Jazmin; Ayizha; Alyza; Shiela; Marlo Benigno; Sean Gabriel; Andrei; Jason; Kristine Therese; Jordan Kristoffer; Trishia Mae

would like to request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

Masses will be offered in the following churches:

Our Lady of the Pillar (Pilar Vill., Las Pinas City-7:30AM); Mary Queen of Apostles (San Isidro, P'que City-6:00AM); Mary Help of Christians Parish (P'que City-6:00PM); Santicimo Rosario Chapel (UST, Manila); San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish Church (Bacoor, Cavite-7:00PM); Our Lady of Fatima (Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite); St. Magdalene of Canosa Chapel (Lipa City-7:00PM); Sto. Nino Cathedral (Calapan City, Or. Mindoro-6:00AM /5:15PM);

In Loving Remembrance of
the First Death Anniversary of

RAMON D. TUASON

November 1, 1934 – October 12, 2004

We love you and miss you very much
We pray for your eternal peace

Monina, Mai, Ito, Lysa & Val,
grandchild **Sabina Isabel,**
Brother **Tony & Toning**

Special masses will be offered today at 10:00 a.m.
at the crypt of San Antonio Church, Forbes Park and
at 6:30 p.m. at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish
in Bel-Air, Makati.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

— 2 Corinthians 5:8

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In Thanksgiving for the Gift of Life of

PAUL DANIEL PERRINE

(November 9, 1920 - October 3, 2005)

There will be a Memorial Service
on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2005,
3:00 p.m. at the Xavier University Chapel,
Cagayan de Oro City.

His remains will be interred
on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2005,
5:00 p.m. with a Memorial Service at
Santuario de San Antonio,
Forbes Park, Makati City.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to
Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan
(The Paul D. Perrine Chair)
would be greatly appreciated.

In Memory of our Beloved

JOSE "TOTO" A. SANCHEZ, JR.

Now peacefully rests in the infinite
Grace and Goodness of the Lord
on the 7th of October 2005
at the age of 62.

His wife, **AMY**, children **NIKOLAI**, **PAM** and **EDDY**, grandchildren, **ENZO** and **EMILIA**, brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at
Christ the King Parish,
Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, October 15, 2005, 2:00 PM
at The Heritage Park Crematory, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig

ROLANDO E. LIWANAG

of Roxas, Oriental Mindoro

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 04, 2005 at the age of 55.

His loving mother **Gloria** and bereaved wife **Nora**; children **Brandon, Francis, Ronald & Noreen**; brothers **Edgardo, Rodolfo, Gerardo, Ernesto**; sisters **Perla & Jessica**; other relatives and friends request your prayers for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro.

Interment will be on October 16, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at Roxas Cemetery, Roxas, Oriental Mindoro.

OUR DEAREST NANAY

Lydia Jacinto Senador

of Bellflower, CA., USA and Metro Manila

Peacefully joined our Dad, Jose P. Senador, Sr.
on October 5, 2005 in Bellflower,CA., USA
at the age of 81.

We, their children **Joe** and **Lulu**, **Baby** and **Warly**, **Tess**, **Toto** and **Jolly**, **Benjie** and **Nini**, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of their souls.

Our Nanay's remains will be flown in from the US in the morning of Thursday, October 13, 2005 and will lie in state at the Lumbang Chapel of Funeraria Paz inside the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 16, 2005, after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass, at the Golden Haven Memorial Park in Las Piñas City.

Whoever
finds
his
life
will
lose it
and
whoever
loses
his
life for
my
sake
will
find it.

Matthew 10:39

Please offer prayers
for the soul of

FE MONICA D. CLAUDIO

(Died: Oct. 12, 2001)

In Loving Memory

On the Second Death Anniversary of

Luigi A. Lagdameo

20 May 1985 - 12 October 2003

The Holy Sacrifice of the mass will be offered for him today, 12 October 2005, at:

Crypt 3 Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish Forbes Park, Makati City	11:00 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, Makati City	7:30 a.m.
National Shrine of the Divine Child La Salle Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	6:20 a.m.
Ateneo Grade School Chapel Katipunan Road, Quezon City	6:30 a.m.

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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
Rafaela Herrera de Villa	Chapel L, Q.C.	Oct. 15, 2005/12NN	Columbary, Q.C.
Rafael M. Gundayao, Sr.	Chapel 14, Q.C.	Oct. 16, 2005	Malasiqui, Pangasinan
Lydia G. Litonjua	Chapel K, Q.C.	Oct. 12, 2005/12:30 PM	Paz, Crematory

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate; ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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RP taps ODA worth $100M from China

By Doris C. Dumlao

UNFAZED BY THE CONTROVERSIES SURrounding the North Luzon Railway project, the government is working on a fresh official development assistance worth at least $100 million from China to speed up ports infrastructure development in Northern Luzon.

In an interview with reporters at the sidelines of the National Microfinance Summit at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Monday, Trade Secretary Peter Favila said the prospective ODA was discussed during a recent visit to Malacañang of a Chinese delegation.

Favila said the Philippine government had proposed an LGU-to-LGU (local government units) arrangement in implementing the project.

The trade secretary added there was also a big investor group from northern China that had expressed interest in funding a new port facility in Northern Luzon which could accommodate huge vessels.

"It's not a BOT (build-operate-transfer) scheme. It will come in the form of a concessional loan and we're still working it out with the Chinese officials," Favila said.

"We made some suggestions on which proponent would fit. Since LGUs are enjoying a surplus, probably that's one avenue they should look into—link up with local LGUs," he said.

He said the proposed LGU-to-LGU financial assistance scheme would be an innovation in bilateral cooperation.

The development of the port system in North Luzon, he noted, was expected to encourage the entry of more Chinese investors in the country, particularly in the mining industry.

Favila said most local ports could only handle 20,000-ton vessels due to lack of depth but mining enterprises, would need ports with a capacity of at least 300,000 tons.

However, Favila said the enterprises would not want to bring the big vessels too far from the ports as Philippine waters, based on the assessment of some Chinese miners, were not conducive for it.

"They prefer (their vessels) close to the port and that's what China wants to develop," he said.

Favila said the Chinese proponent was offering very good funding terms for the project, with maturity stretched up to 20-25 years.

But Favila said he had to do a lot of explaining to the Chinese investors on issues surrounding the $500-million North Luzon Railway rehabilitation project, which was questioned by certain quarters.

A study by the University of the Philippines earlier recommended the cancellation of the North Luzon Railway rehabilitation contract with a Chinese government corporation and the filing of appropriate law suits. They said the North Rail contract was unlawful and should be voided because it was awarded without competitive bidding as required by Republic Act No. 9184, the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The study said the project lacked detailed engineering design and transparent competitive tender to be able to ascertain if the project cost was the best value-for-money that the Philippine government could have secured.

The UP study also said the contract was of questionable validity for its failure to comply with the Government Auditing Code and the Administrative Code of 1987, which require that contracts should first be certified as having the necessary and available appropriation.

Gov't wants RP-Japan deal OKd by Nov.

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PUSH FOR THE finalization of a bilateral trade pact with Japan by November, before the rush of trade meetings that would gather regional and world leaders.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said in an interview that Philippine negotiators would "work hard to get (the Japan Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement) done" although sticky issues remained unresolved.

Favila made the statement at the sidelines of the 31st Philippine Business Conference being held at the Manila Hotel.

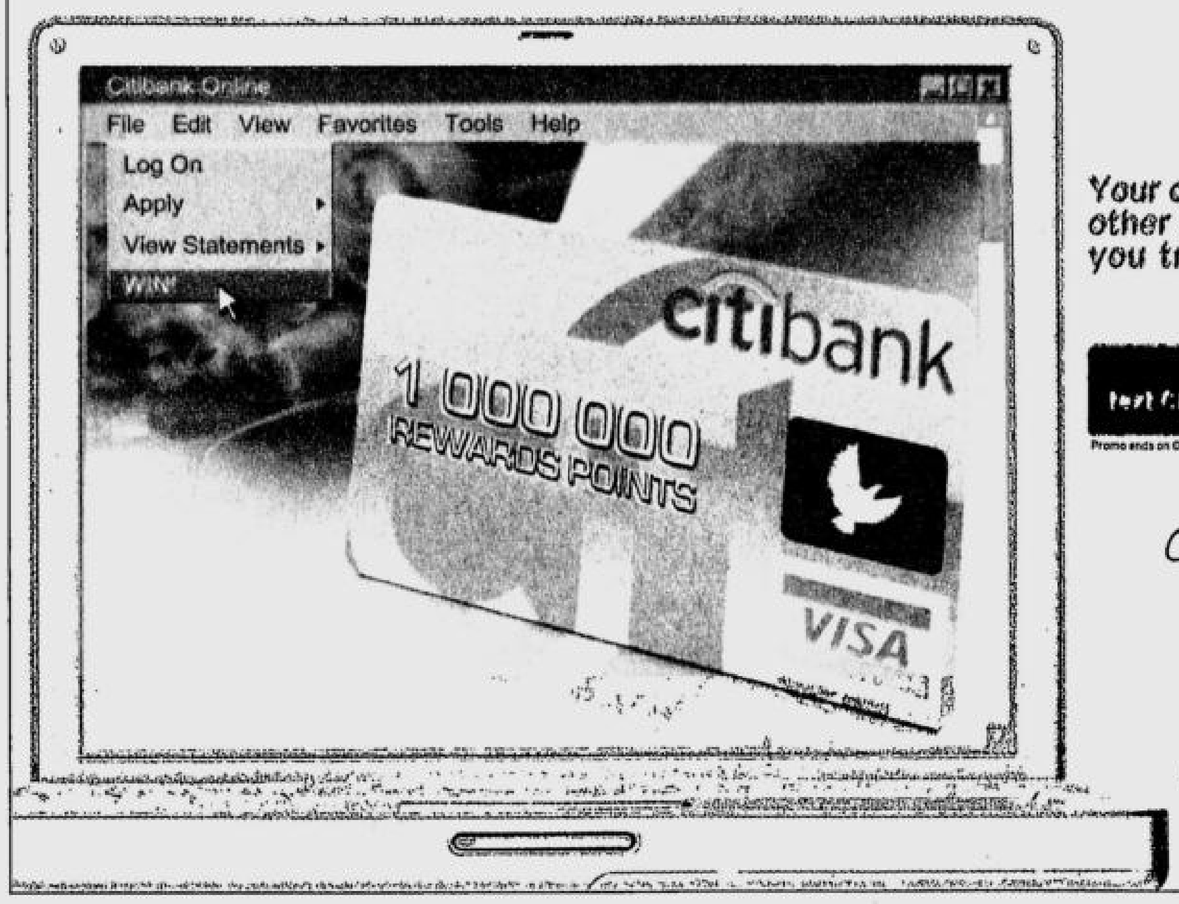
"We hope to (make the JPEPA a done deal) before the 11th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit and the 6th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in December," Favila said.

Next month, Asean leaders will meet in Kuala Lumpur while WTO leaders will gather in Hong Kong.

The trade chief said issues on allowing the cross-border movement of workers, such as the entry of Filipino caregivers to Japan, remained one of the stumbling blocks in the negotiations.

Last month, officials have hinted resignation that the JPEPA talks might not be concluded until early year. Originally, negotiations were expected to have wrapped up in September.

Aside from matters related to the "movement of natural persons," contentious issues include the rules for trade of products and services and how fast should tariffs on automotive vehicles be removed.



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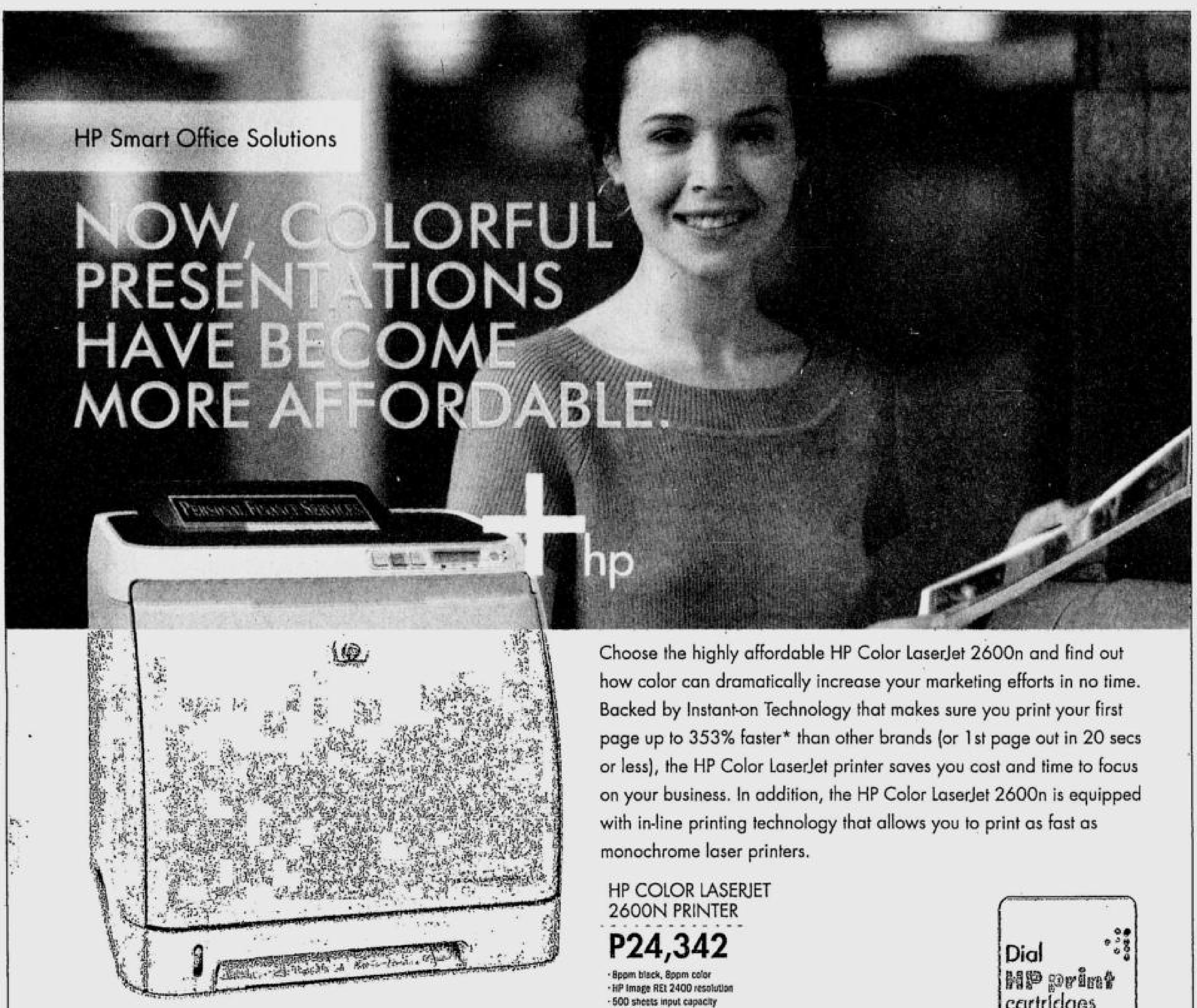
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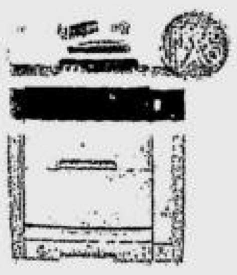

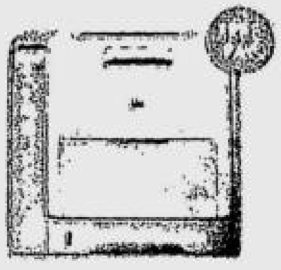

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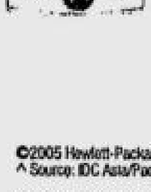

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^ Source: IDC Asia/Pacific Quarterly Printer Tracker, 2Q 2005

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6745, Series of 2005

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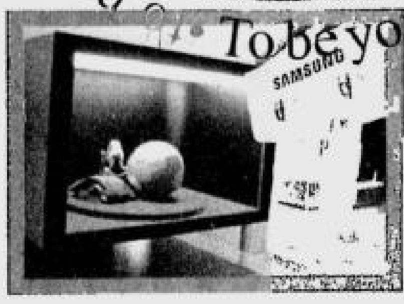
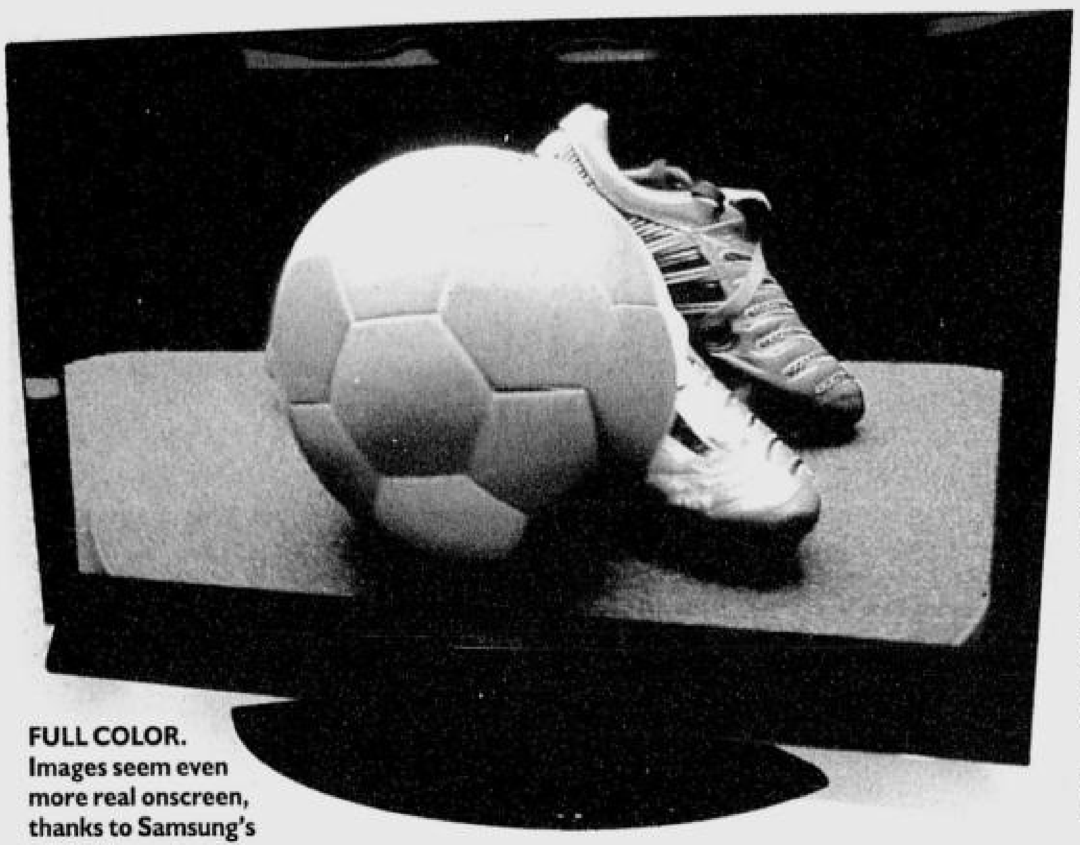


Sweet dreams are made of screens

Samsung invites everyone to imagine the future of TV. Boy, will couch potatoes be pleased

Text and photos by Pam Pastor



FULL COLOR. Images seem even more real onscreen, thanks to Samsung's 549 billion colors.

BERLIN, GERMANY—YOU think your couch potato lifestyle is already satisfactory? Samsung Electronics will change your mind.

They unveiled innovations in television at this year's IFA, the world's largest consumer electronics trade fair, held every two years in Germany.

Proving their leadership in the international TV market, their award-winning lineup of digital and mobile TVs included the world's largest TVs—the 102" Plasma and the 82" LCD TVs and the 71" DLP, which aim to provide a theater quality experience for consumers.

And that's not all. They also showed the newest SlimFit TV, which has taken away a third of the thickness of your normal tube television. People also flocked to the display of mobile TVs, which will give consumers access to TV anywhere, anytime.

Samsung has been continually striving to make images appear more natural on television. Their latest image enhancer, the Digital

SWEET/ C2

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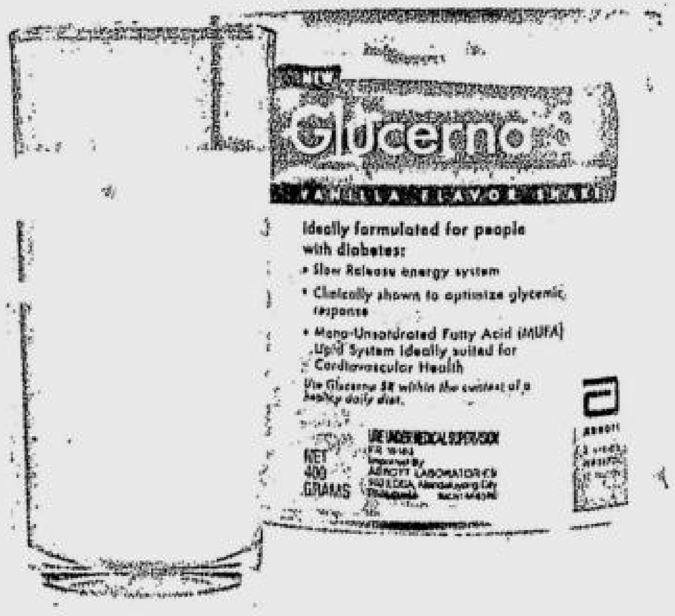

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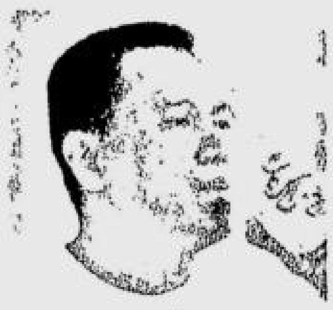

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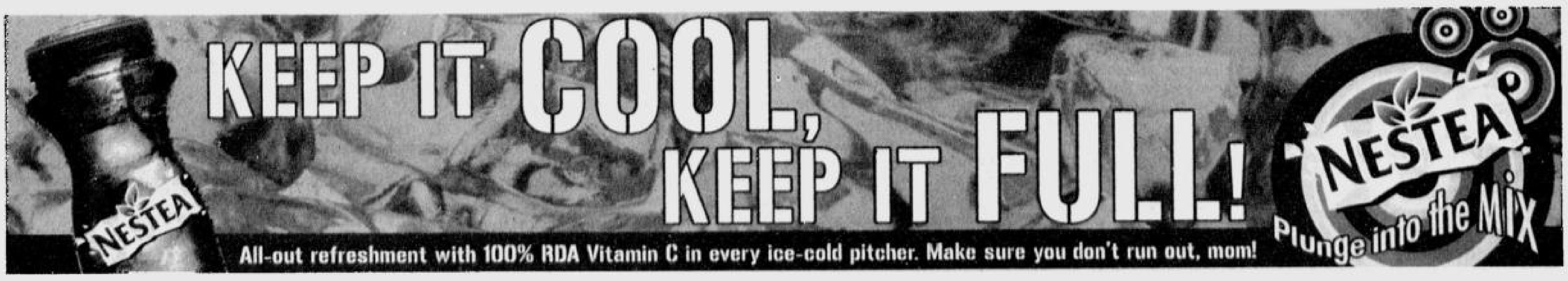

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Plunge into the Mix

Entertainment in your pocket

By Pam Pastor

I FOUND IT STRANGE THAT despite my deep love for music, I never felt the need to buy an MP3 player. Until now.

But I'm not being fair. Because the Samsung YP-T8 is more than just an MP3 player. Christened "All-in-One Entertainment," this digital audio player allows you to open MP3, WMA, ASF and OGG files. It lets you create play lists and organize your music files in neat little folders for easier access. The sound is good and the equalizer allows you to change settings depending on the music genre you're listening to.

But the YP-T8 does so much more than just play music.

FM radio

If you're tired of the songs you have stored, you can listen to FM radio. The YP-T8 is also equipped with FM, voice and line-in recording. This little multimedia wonder comes with software applications that allow you to convert music and videos and transfer text and photo files from your computer.

You can also use the player as a USB host device (just don't forget to bring your cable). With that feature, you can easily connect to your digital camera and to other MP3 players for quick file transfers. Its line-in port allows you to convert CDs, cassettes and radio clips into MP3 format without using your computer.

Thanks to its 1.8" TFT-LCD screen, this flash memory-based multimedia player lets you view text files and photos in JPEG format. You can bring your favorite photos with you everywhere and you can even read e-books! Maybe not the latest "Harry Potter" though, since reading a book that long on a small screen might strain your eyes. Or maybe you can—but in small doses.

This marvel also plays videos in the MPEG4 format. Yes, you read that right. It can play videos.

Meaning, that while my boyfriend was battling the city traffic recently, I was busy watching "Chicago" and "Jerry Maguire." Meaning, that we were able to show our friends a video of our last vacation while having dinner in a busy restaurant.

Samsung's Multimedia Studio software which comes with the player facilitates conversion of videos into the .SVI format so you can view them on your YP-T8.

And to think I was lusting over a portable DVD player.

Addicting games

When Samsung says "entertainment," it wasn't kidding. The YP-T8 also comes with games that are addicting.

The Motion Detecting Games, a new innovation, lets you play by using hand motions. With One Shot Dart, you can play darts without pressing a button. You actually hold the YP-T8 in your hand and pretend that you're throwing a virtual dart. With Crazy Hurdles, you can also play 100-m hurdles by rocking the YP-T8 in your hand. Sure, it makes you look silly when you do it in public. But hey, silly is fun.

Although I enjoy throwing imaginary darts and giving hurdles a shot without breaking a sweat, my favorite game is Pipe Dream Plus. I am seriously hooked. I reached level 15 and I still didn't want to stop. There's also Hextris, something Tetris lovers will find interesting.

The YP-T8 comes with a built-in rechargeable Li-Ion Battery that lets you play music for up to 20 hours, and different buttons for easy navigation.

Its small size makes it convenient for carrying around. It's ideal for long flights, days of heavy traffic (which seemed to be every day this past week) and yes, boring classes. Just don't get it confiscated.

The Samsung YP-T8 is available in 256 MB, 512 MB, 1GB and 2 GB. Check it out at your favorite electronics shops.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

> The Samsung YP-T8 is an amazing little gadget that allows you to play music, watch movies, view pictures and more. And it fits in the palm of your hand

Lost and Found
Lost & Found
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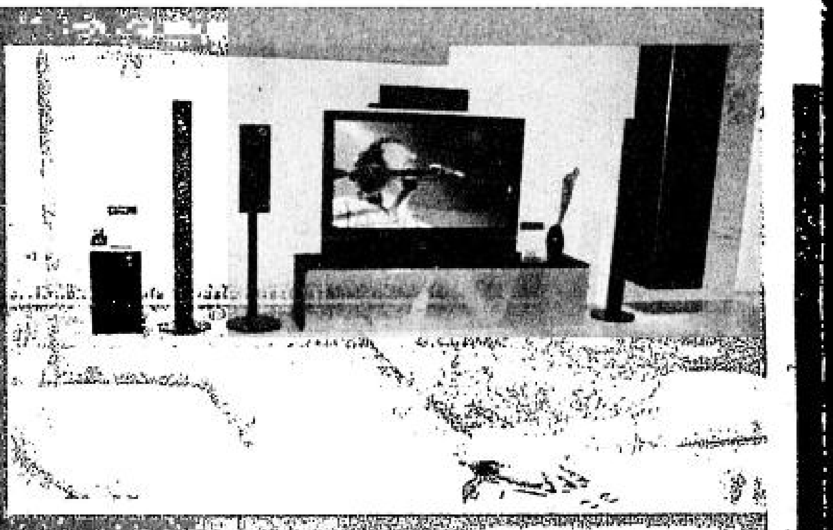
NORMAL
Artist
Album
Track
ASF 500kbps
00:00:00
-00:00:00
NAVI
Visual/Lyric
DIGITAL AUDIO PLAYER
+
NAVI
−

ALL-IN-ONE Entertainment. No kidding.

SAMSUNG was a big favorite at IFA 2005.

HONEY Jarque-Loop, Western's Diane Ngo, Ansons' Pamela Tiu, Spencer Shim, Angie Limbaco, the author and Candy Manaloto at Berlin's historic Brandenburg gate



LIKE being in your own living room. Almost.

Sweet dreams are made of

SAMSUNG Electronic Phils. president and CEO Spencer Shim, and Samsung Southeast Asia and Pacific president and CEO Park Sang Jin

FROM TOP: mobile TV demonstration; Angie Limbaco, Samsung Electronics Philippines corporate marketing head, checks out Samsung's digital audio players; You can have your photos printed at the digital photo printer booth.

From page C1

Natural Imagine engine, and 13 bit color reproduction gives viewers the gift of 549 billion colors. At one of the demonstrations at IFA, the image on the Samsung TV screen seemed even more real than the actual ball and shoe being projected. Crazy, right?

Showcase products

Transforming Hall 20 of the ICC into a virtual playground for lovers of technology, Samsung also showcased its many other products. Camcorders, printers, notebook computers, PDAS, mobile phones, digital audios players—it was every tech-head's dream come true.

Highlights of the showcase include the VP-M2100 and the VP-MS10 compact digital video cameras (compact digital video camera and digital still camera with MP3 player, voice recorder, data storage and web cam functionalities in a unique six-in-one multifunction product), the BD-HR1000 and SV-L77DMB (HD-quality video recorder with wireless networking system and portable DVD player with digital multimedia broadcasting), the SPP2020 and SPP2040 (wireless, PC-independent photo printers remarkable for their compact design and great connectivity) and M70 notebook PC (The M70 is the world's first notebook PC with a detachable monitor that can be used for any display application.)

The products displayed allowed interaction. There were listening stations for the audio players and home cinema setups that allow you to enjoy the televisions as if you were in the comfort of your very own living room. You can actually touch the computers and play with the mobile phones. There was even a sports car with a mobile TV that you can try. Guides were ready to answer questions and to provide more information. Our favorite was the digital photo printer area where you can have your photos taken and printed with Samsung's newest printers.

The consistent updates in their slew of products shouldn't be a surprise. After all, Samsung invests 8.8 percent of its revenue in research and development. They have 2,500 people with PhDs and 27,000 employees with master's degrees who are all working hard to create improvement and innovations.

Park Sang Jin, president and CEO of Samsung Southeast Asia and Pacific, talked about Samsung's constant drive to create a technological revolution. "We cannot wait until the market is ready. We must cause change. We must lead."

And although technology takes a lot of work and even seems intimidating to others, Park is quick to point out that "digital technology should be fun and fashionable."

Samsung's efforts have been paying off. It received the European Imaging and Sound Association Award for LCD TV, Home Cinema System and Portable Media Player.

Consumer bonding

Park also stressed the importance of Samsung's emotional bonding with the consumers by providing products that can make a difference in their lives. "We are working very hard to meet customer satisfaction by developing the most updated technology. Such technology shall then be realized as a product that can show real benefits."

Jong-Jong Yun, vice chair and CEO of Samsung Electronics said, "We will always strive to challenge design limits and provide consumers with leading-edge products that truly enhance their lives."

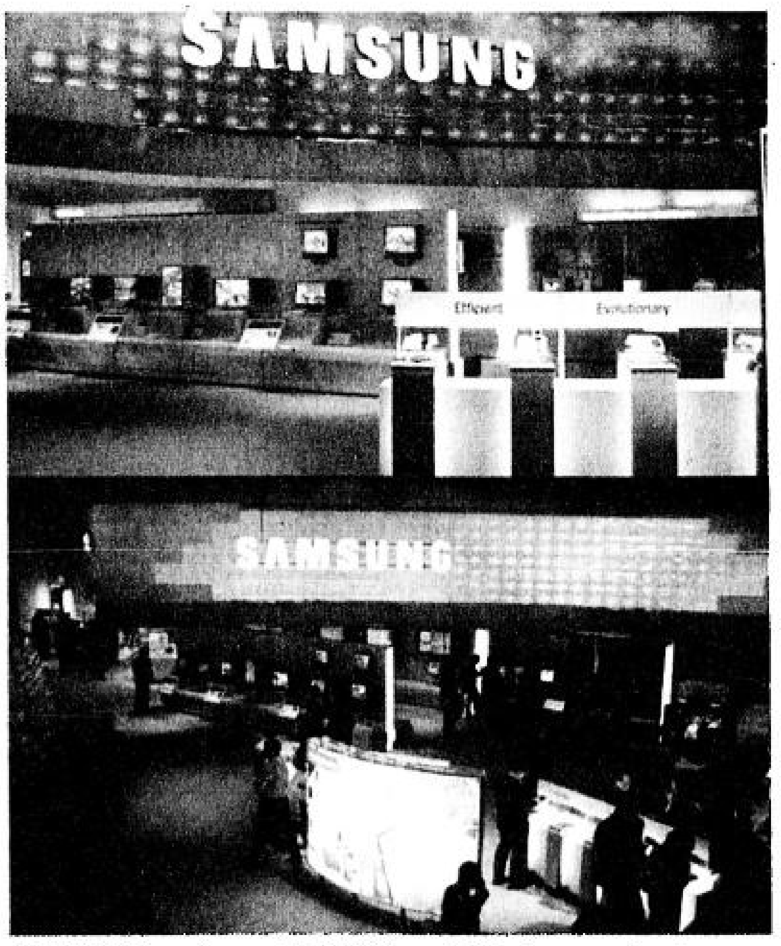
Samsung Electronics also took IFA as a chance to bond with the media and their partners from different parts of Asia. They organized a gala dinner at the swanky Ritz Carlton hosted by Nadia Hutagalung, a face made familiar to everyone by MTV.

Guests dined on Seared Tuna with Lemon Pepper and Coulis and Yellow Beet Root Carpaccio, Asian-Flavored Seafood Soup, Warm Duck Liver Creme with Pineapple Chutney Sauternes Foam and Crispy Briochie, Pan Fried Cod on Potato Souffle and Stir-Fried Baby Vegetables, Garlic and Basil Jus and Gratinated Passion Fruit Parfait with Jellied Citrus Frutis and Coriander Sauce.

Nanta, famous for their nonverbal performance of reckless rhythms in the kitchen, added wild beats, humor and Korean flavor to the evening. To the delight of the men, Samsung also brought in Bond, the sexy Anglo-Australian string quartet, for a stirring performance.

Samsung still has a lot of surprises in store for today's consumers. As Park said, "As long as we can imagine, we can develop technology."

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph



SAMSUNG transformed Hall 20 into a digital playground.

SAMSUNG Press Conference IFA 2005

THOMAS Ferrero, Samsung's director for corporate marketing; Gregory Lee, Samsung's senior vice president and chief marketing officer; Gee Sung Choi, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Digital Media Division; Don Baer, senior executive VP of Discovery Communications; and David Steel, VP of marketing for Samsung's consumer electronics unit

MEMBERS of the media from all parts of Asia had a hands-on experience at IFA's Samsung hall.

Which digital audio player are you?

Take this quiz and find out.

By Pam Pastor

MP3 PLAYERS ARE NO LONGER JUST MP3 PLAYERS.

Samsung has eight hot new offerings, each one more amazing than the next. How do you figure out which is the right choice for you? Take this quiz and find out.

1. At a party we would find you...
- a. Unwinding after a long busy day.
- b. Taking charge of the music played.
- c. Partying, what else?
- d. Taking photos of everyone.
- e. Sipping your drink, people watching.
- f. In a corner, talking to your friends.
- g. Looking good.
- h. Checking out the interiors.

2. What's on your wish list?
- a. The hottest gadgets. You love anything hi-tech.
- b. An MP3 player, a new stereo, a ton of CDs
- c. A home entertainment system, the newest game console, a portable DVD player
- d. A new camera, a portable printer
- e. Books. Just that. You're not big on material things.
- f. A new computer to replace your old one. Or something really practical like that.
- g. Clothes, bags, accessories, more clothes
- h. An artwork

3. If you had one, your blog would mostly be about...
- a. Your favorite websites, reviews of gadgets, techie stuff.
- b. The concerts you go to, your favorite bands, your current playlist.
- c. The movies you've seen, the TV shows you love to watch, the games you play and other things that keep you occupied.
- d. Your life, as shown through pictures. It will be a photoblog.
- e. The books you read, the things that inspire you.
- f. Work.
- g. Your latest fashion conquests, what's next on your list of things to buy.
- h. You're not into blogs. You'd rather keep a real journal, not a digital one.

4. Your friends would describe you as...
- a. Someone who wants everything out of life.
- b. A huge music fan.
- c. An entertainment junkie.
- d. Their resident photographer.
- e. Simple but beautiful.
- f. Practical.
- g. Stylish and fashionable.
- h. Old-fashioned. A lover of anything classic.

5. What's your big passion?
- a. Technology.
- b. Music.
- c. Movies.
- d. Photography.
- e. Books.
- f. Work.
- g. Fashion.
- h. Art.

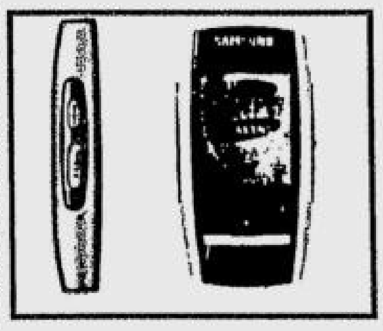
The results:

Mostly A's

You're the YH-J70, the Multimedia Sensation. This baby comes with either 20GB or 30GB of space. It can play OGG, MP3, WMA, WAV and Audio ASF. Thanks to its 1.8" TFT-LCD, it can play MPEG4 video files and can view JPEG images and text. With voice recording, an FM tuner and five games, this all-around gadget can keep you occupied for hours.

Mostly B's

You're the YH-J50, the Multimedia Jukebox. Available in 6 or 8 GB, this hot toy can play OGG, MP3, WMA, WAV and Audio ASF files. You can also view JPEG images, play games and watch MPEG4 Video files with its 1.5" TFT-LCD.

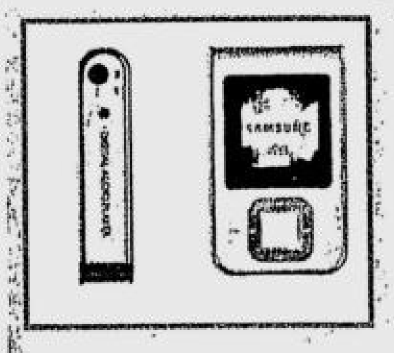


Mostly C's

You're the YP-T8, All-in-One Entertainment. It comes in 256 MB, 512 MB, 1 GB and 2 GB (Built in Flash Memory). It can play OGG, MP3, ASF and MPEG4 files, can view JPEG and text files. It includes a voice recorder, an FM tuner, an FM radio and recording and the Innovative Motion Detecting Gaming.

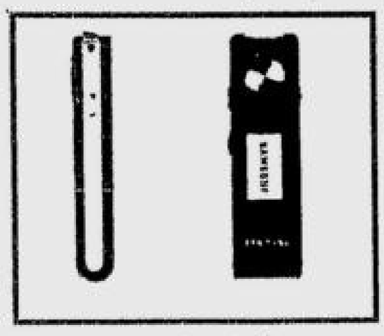
Mostly D's

You're the YP-D1, with 2M Pixel Digital Camera. Equipped with a 1.8" TFT-LCD, this gadget comes in 256 MB, 512 MB, 1 GB and 2 GB (Built-in Flash Memory.) It can play OGG, MP3, WMA, Audio ASF, JPEG and MPEG4 Video Files. It also has a Voice Recorder and an FM Tuner. But what sets it apart is its two-megapixel camera with digital zoom



Mostly E's

You're the YP-T7F, Compact and Multifunctional. Aside from allowing you to make voice recordings, view JPEG and text files and play OGG, MP3, WMA, ASF files, this powerful little tool allows you to read E-books too. It comes in 512 MB, 1 GB and 2 GB.

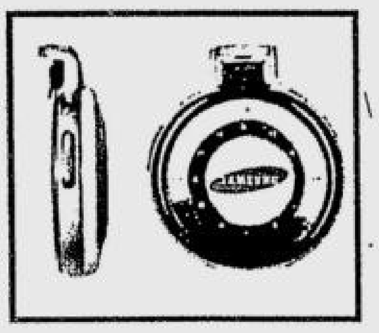


Mostly F's

You're the YP-U1, Simple and Easy. Choose from 156 MB, 512 MB and 1 GB. This player lets you listen to OGG, MP3, WMA, ASF and WAV files. It can also be used for voice recordings and as a flash disk drive.

Mostly G's

You're the YP-F1, High Style Looks. Beauty is not just shell-deep. The YP-F1 comes in 256 MB, 512 MB and 1 GB (Built in Flash Memory). It can play OGG, MP3, ASF and Audio ASF files. It also has an FM tuner and a voice tuner. It has a necklace earphone and Interchangeable shells so your player can match your outfit.



Mostly H's

You're the YP-W3L, Splendid Watch Design. This classic-looking player comes in 1 G (Built in Flash Memory). It can play OGG, MP3, WMA, WAV and Audio ASF files. It is equipped with an enhanced black-lit LCD, touch keypad, clock function and an FM Tuner.

Win a Samsung YP-T8!

Because 2bU! is celebrating its birthday month, our friends from Samsung are giving away three Samsung YP-T8. Yes, three! Tell us (or show, if you're creative) how you intend to maximize the use of this digital audio player and you might just be one of our lucky winners. Be as imaginative as you can be. E-mail your entries at contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Entries must be in by Oct. 22. Don't forget to include your name, age, school/office and contact information

screens

CLOCKWISE, from left: Berlin bonding. The Philippine Star's Honey Jarque-Loop, Samsung's Angie Limbaco, the author and Manila Bulletin's Candy Manaloto; Techno-lust at IFA; the future of TV: unbelievably huge screens and mobile television

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Passion statement

Text and photos by Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

PURSUING ONE'S PASSION PROMISES A LIFE full of rewards, fun and fulfillment. This was the message of Pepsi's brand ambassadors when they were introduced to the media last Sept. 29 at Mezze in Makati.

"Panday" star Jericho Rosales—endorser for the soda brand for the second year now—leads Pepsi's pack of passion-filled souls living life to the fullest. Apart from performing, Echo is also in love with surfing, catching monstrous waves in Siargao whenever possible.

Three fresh faces join the hunky actor as Pepsi ambassadors, highlighting the softdrink brand's youthful vibrance and powerful appeal worldwide. How does Echo feel about the newcomers?

"It's nice to know that the Pepsi family is growing," he said. "I'm so excited to welcome dynamic and energetic young people who share the same daring spirit that I have."

The youngest among the bunch is Matteo Guidicelli, the 15-year-old international karting champion from Cebu who has wowed local and international racing fans, especially when he outlasted all his competitors during the recent Asia Karting Championships. "I think it's in my blood to have this need for speed," explained Matteo. "It's challenging, exciting and the adrenaline rush is indescribable."

What's next

So what's next for this Swatch and Penshoppe endorser? Apart from preparing for another race that would determine who the Philippine champion is, Matteo will also voice the main character in "Mishugi," an animé show premiering on Animax this Oct. 9.

Another addition to the Pepsi family of endorsers—which include David Beckham, Beyoncé, Britney Spears and F4 member Vaness Wu—is Pinoy rock star Bamboo Mañalac, lead vocalist of the band that bears his name. It's a no-brainer what this musician is crazy about. "Music is my life," he said. "It's my form of expression and my passion."

The vocalist said his bandmates were happy he had become a Pepsi endorser. "It was sort of a one-person's-success-is-everyone's-success sort of thing," he said. "So my face is in some *sari-sari* store, it's good for the band."

The only female in the group is striking beauty Nicole Hernandez, an accidental model with a long list of magazine covers, commercials and impressive grades to her name. Fashion is Nicole's passion and it's not just going to stop at modeling for this lovely lady. She's flying to New York next year to chase her dreams. "I'm going to work first there then try it out," she shares.

Freshness, vibrance and passion—these are the common denominators of the four Pepsi endorsers. They embody the brand's "Kaya Mo 'To" campaign. Pepsi vice president for marketing Maricelle Narciso explained "the Pepsi Ambassadors pursue their passions and dare to face all the challenges that come their way. The end result—more fruitful, enjoyable, fulfilled lives. It is this attitude and drive that Pepsi celebrates, as embodied by its campaign, "Kaya Mo 'To."

A NEW breed of endorsers: Bamboo, Matteo, Nicole and Jericho

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Glam on the cheap

IF THE BIG-BUCK ITEMS FROM last week caused a stir among my readers, I can just imagine the excitement this week's hit list will elicit.

Lora Gahol

Here are the best beauty buys you could ever lay your hands on, just as I promised. Crack open those piggy banks now!

The key to managing your *kikay* finances isn't finding the cheapest product on the shelves. It's finding the diamonds in the rough: items that are at par with high-end brands, quality-wise, but are friendly on the budget.

There are plenty of alternatives that will do the job for a fraction of the price.

Trendy color. Hot pink blush, electric blue shadow, emerald green liner... You need these for your '80s-themed party, not every single day. If you need to add less-than-classic shades in your kit, it is a definite don't to dip into your life savings to purchase these.

A lot of local brands have a great selection of long-wearing eye shadow in a wide array of colors (yes, including the *talong*-hued eye color) you can afford straight out of your meager allowance.

I'm loving the eye shadow palettes by Fashion 21 that are equivalent to your daily allocation of Grande Frappuccino. I rush over to their counter when hit with a sudden need for shades I normally won't carry in my collection. Also try VOV eye shadows. Their basic shades stay put, don't crease and won't cost you an arm and a leg.

Cheek Tint. Sure, you wear this every day. It has become such a part of your routine that you've practically forgotten how you look without it.

Why spend so much on something people can't even tell you're wearing? Cheek tint does not disguise imperfections or even out your complexion the way foundation does—it can be considered icing on the cake.

I'm a big fan of a number of lower-priced products that can easily pass for the cult fave, BeneTint. My all-time favorite is Mistine Lip and Cheek Tint, which I sometimes layer with Ever Bilena's fruity-smelling Lip and Cheek Tint for a dewier finish. These go for P150 and P120, respectively. Now, that alone is enough to make you blush, isn't it?

Mascara. Most makeup artists will back me up when I say the best mascara in the market today belongs to the 500-and-below price range. The most important qualities to look for: non-clumping, non-sticky, waterproof, hypoallergenic.

All these can easily be found in Maybelline Great Lash Mascara. All we really need is lash darkening and a bit of enhancement. Let's leave the curling to our pricey-yet-trusty eyelash curler, shall we?

Lip Gloss. The mere fact that most girls can afford to own quite a number of lip glosses means that good ones won't necessarily cost you your firstborn.

The search for the perfect lightweight formula you can build your very own lip gloss collection on is over: hoard the ones at Bench. Great color collection (I found the perfect nude gloss—the gloss wand in Prim).

Eyeliner. Four words: Ever Bilena Eye Liner. For less than a hundred bucks, you have a non-irritating formula (great for contact-lens wearers), easy-to-smudge texture, and a non-smear finish. Even some expensive brands can't beat that.

Ever Bilena, Maybelline, Fashion 21 and VOV at department stores; Bench at Bench outlets; Mistine at Mimi Cosmetics and Robinson's Department Stores.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com or lgahol@pldtvibe.net

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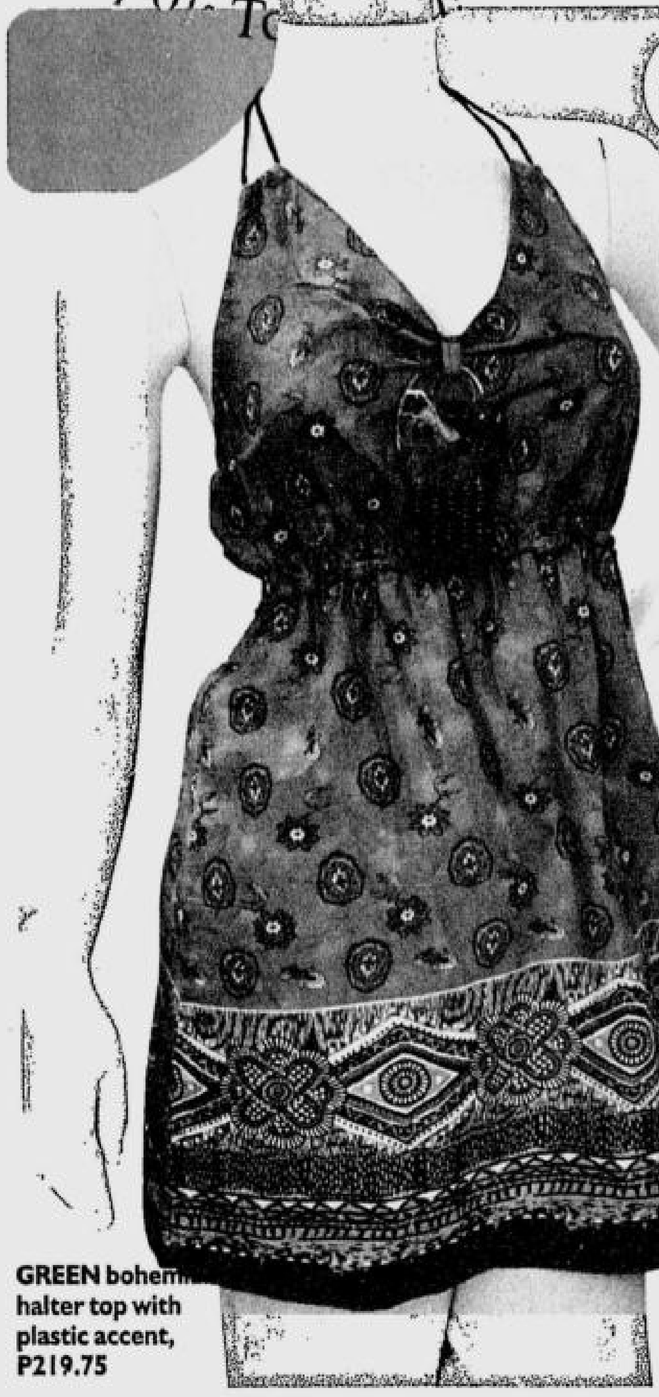
Gushing over Gaisano

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Raffy Lerma



GREEN bohem[illegible] halter top with plastic accent, P219.75

LAST WEEK, THE Fashion Freaks perfected a new sport. Gushing over Gaisano.

Cebu's popular mall Metro Gaisano has opened its first Manila branch in Market! Market! at Fort Bonifacio's Global City.

They call the place Metro Market! Market! but we call it paradise for its unbelievably affordable finds.

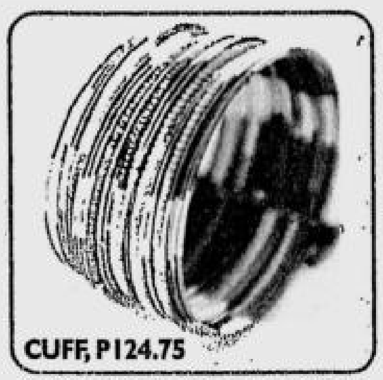
We spent five hours combing the five-floor department store for great fashion finds, and discovered so many fab items: brightly colored shirts embellished with ragged fabric ribbons and flowers for only P119.75, beaded tank tops for P159.75, hand-painted jeans for only P999.75 that are so pretty they can be framed and hung on your wall.

If you're big on bags, there are metallic and embellished bags of all kinds and sizes for less than a thousand pesos, even some for just around P300.

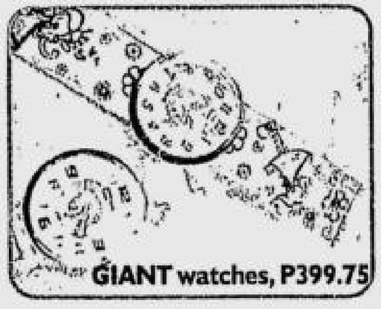
If accessories are your thing, check out the giant watches for less than P400, and the chunky wooden and intricately beaded cuffs for under P130.

We found metallic flats for and sexy

GUSHING/ D3



CUFF, P124.75



GIANT watches, P399.75

> They call the place Metro Market! Market, we call it paradise for its unbelievably affordable finds

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after dining...
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WHERE FUN ROLLS!

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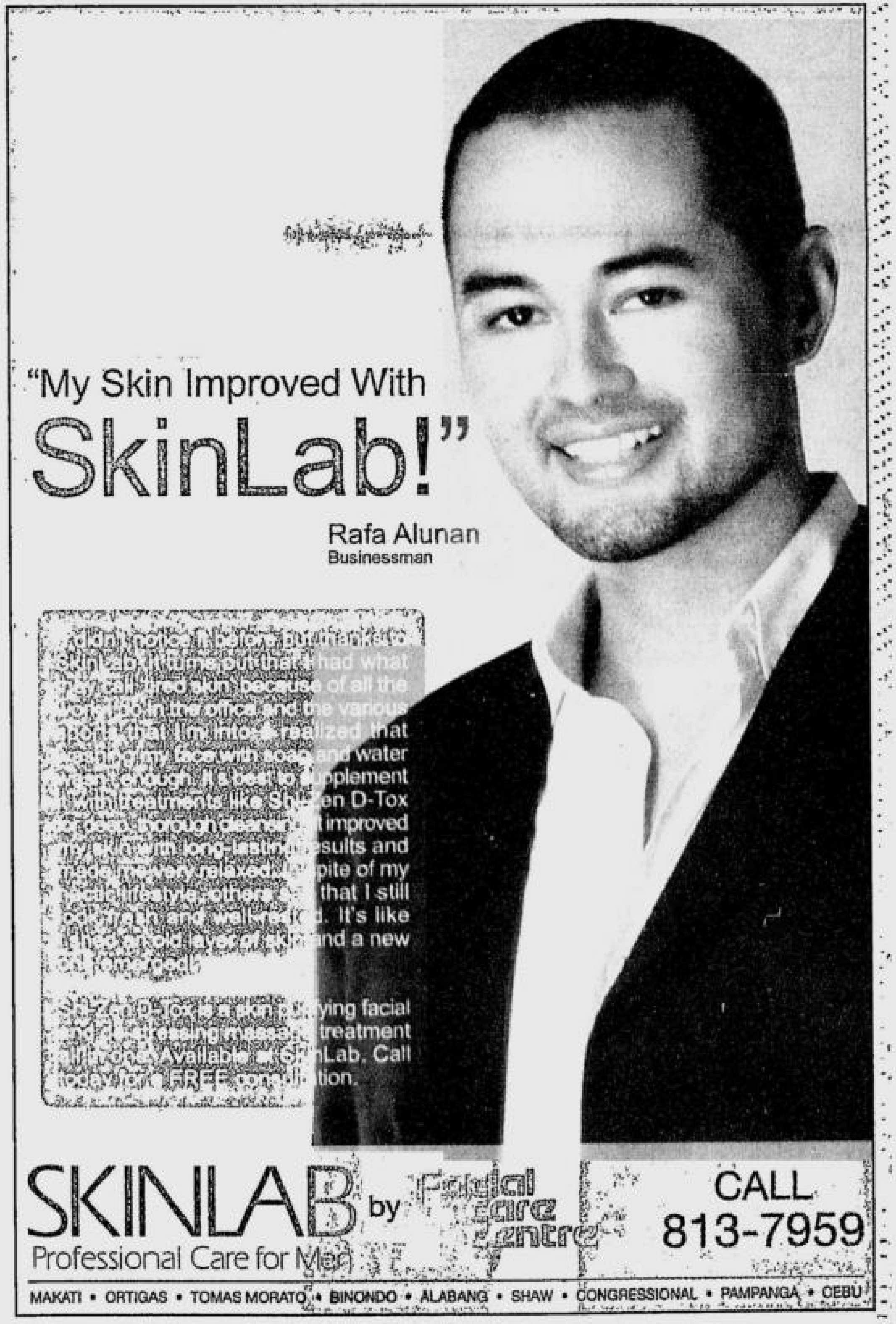

"My Skin Improved With SkinLab!"
Rafa Alunan
Businessman

[illegible] had what [illegible] because of all the [illegible] and the various [illegible] realized that [illegible] soap and water [illegible] supplement [illegible] treatments like [illegible] D-Tox [illegible] improved [illegible] results and [illegible] pite of my [illegible] that I still [illegible] It's like [illegible] and a new [illegible]

[illegible] D-Tox is a [illegible] ying facial [illegible] treatment [illegible] Available at SkinLab. Call [illegible] FREE consultation.

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SUPER TEXT KA NA TO YOUR PALS FROM SUN & OTHER NETWORKS!

[illegible]

DENOMINATIONS	FREE TEXT	VALIDITY
P 20 - 29	2	2 days
P 30 - 49	4	3 days
P 50 - 74	8	7 days

DENOMINATIONS	FREE TEXT	VALIDITY
P 75 - 99	12	10 days
P100 - 124	16	15 days
P125 - 149	20	20 days
P150	25	30 days

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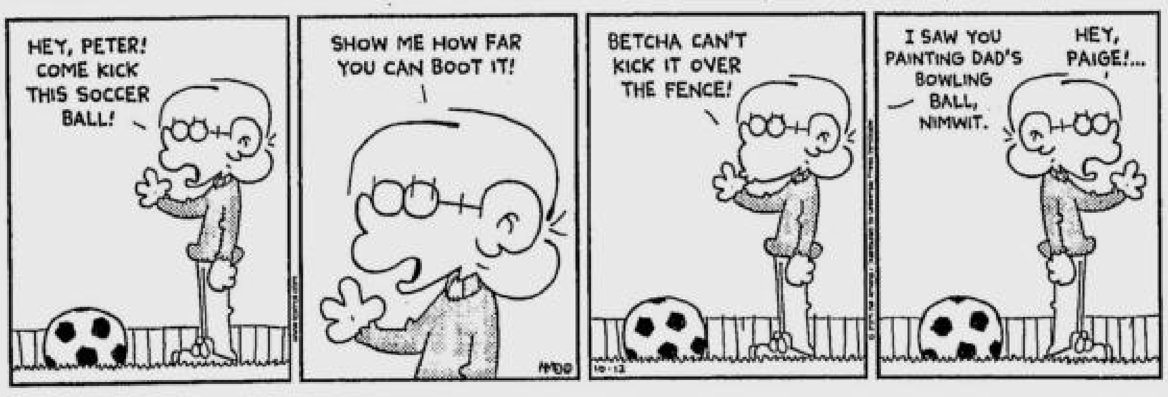
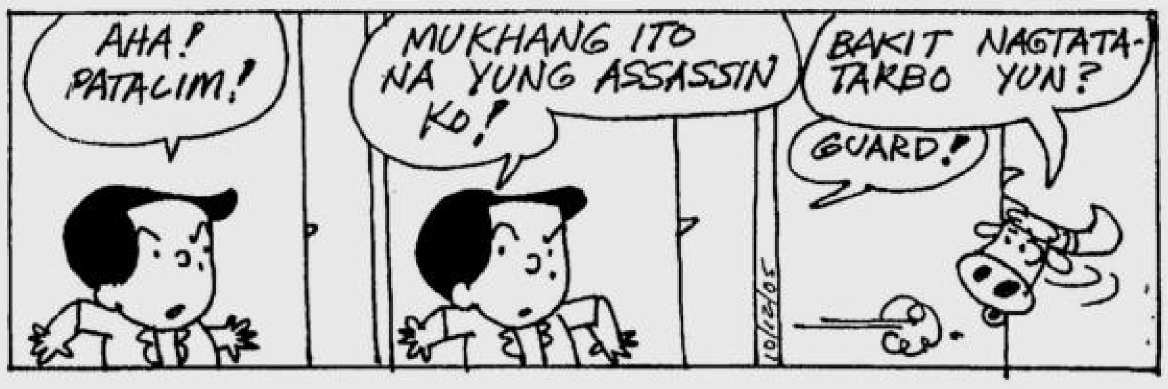
For more information regarding Sun Xpress Load visit our website at www.[illegible]

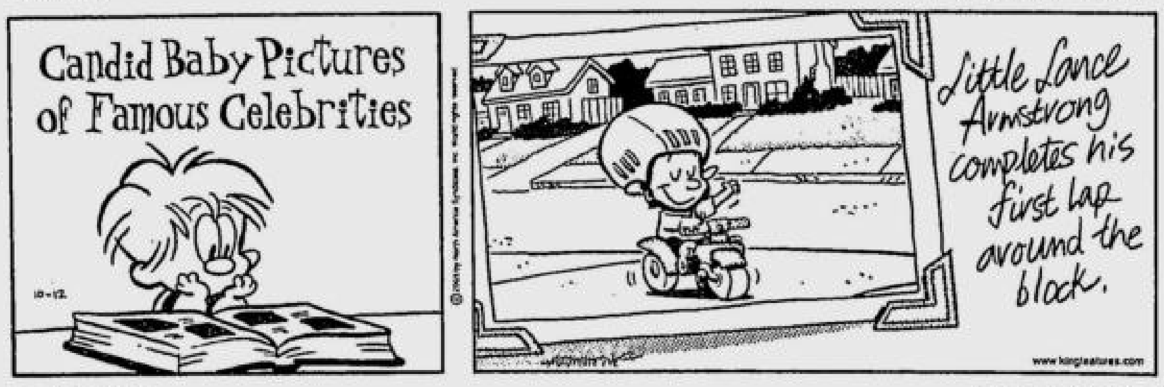
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


HEY, PETER! COME KICK THIS SOCCER BALL!
SHOW ME HOW FAR YOU CAN BOOT IT!
BETCHA CAN'T KICK IT OVER THE FENCE!
HEY, PAIGE!...
I SAW YOU PAINTING DAD'S BOWLING BALL, NIMWIT.
10-12

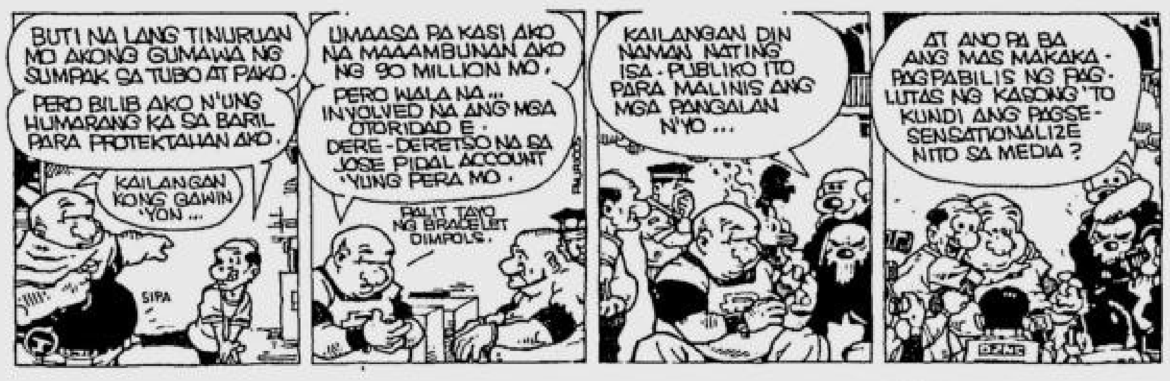
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


AHA! PATALIM!
MUKHANG ITO NA YUNG ASSASSIN KO!
BAKIT NAGTATA-TAKBO YUN?
GUARD!
10/12/05

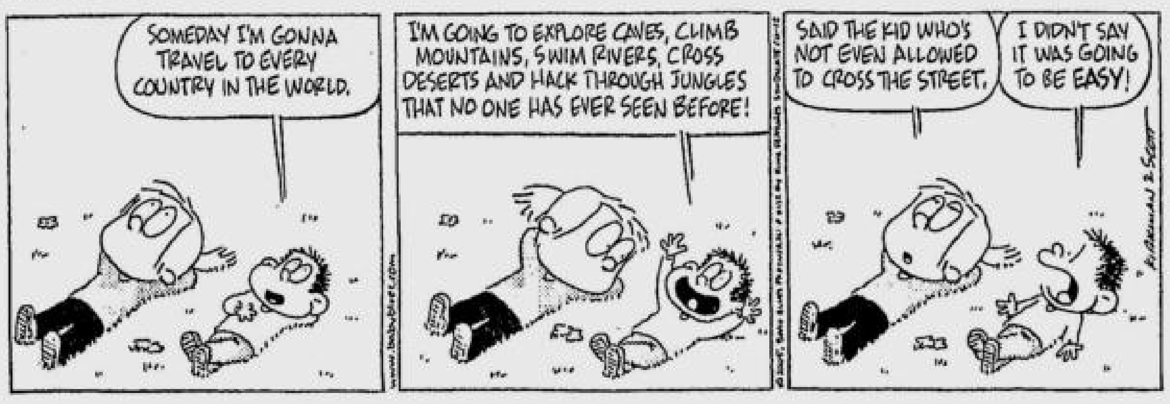
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


Candid Baby Pictures of Famous Celebrities
10-12
Little Lance Armstrong completes his first lap around the block.
www.kingfeatures.com

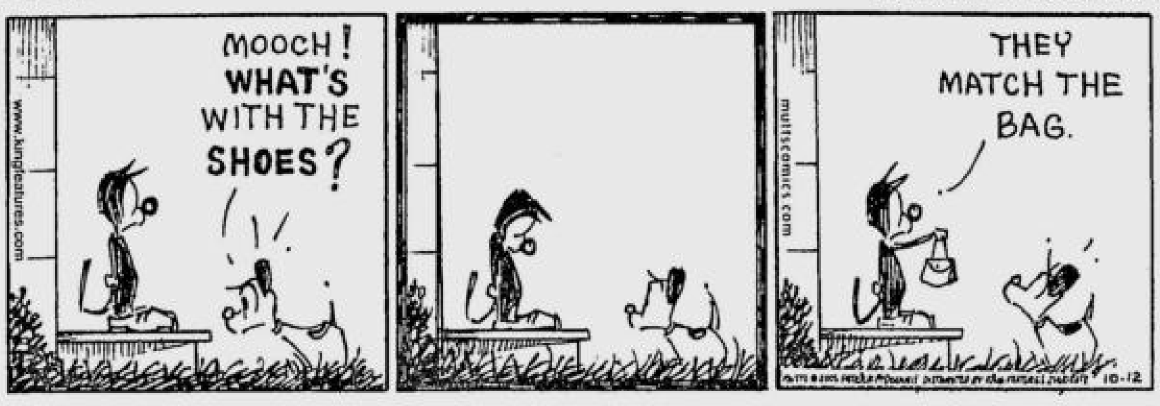
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


BUTI NA LANG TINURUAN MO AKONG GUMAWA NG SUMPAK SA TUBO AT PAKO.
PERO BILIB AKO N'UNG HUMARANG KA SA BARIL PARA PROTEKTAHAN AKO.
KAILANGAN KONG GAWIN 'YON ...
SIPA
UMAASA PA KASI AKO NA MAAAMBUNAN AKO NG 90 MILLION MO,
PERO WALA NA... INVOLVED NA ANG MGA OTORIDAD E. DERE-DERETSO NA SA JOSE PIDAL ACCOUNT 'YUNG PERA MO.
PALIT TAYO NG BRACELET DIMPOLS.
KAILANGAN DIN NAMAN NATING ISA-PUBLIKO ITO PARA MALINIS ANG MGA PANGALAN N'YO ...
AT ANO PA BA ANG MAS MAKAKA-PAGPABILIS NG PAG-LUTAS NG KASONG 'TO KUNDI ANG PAGSE-SENSATIONALIZE NITO SA MEDIA?

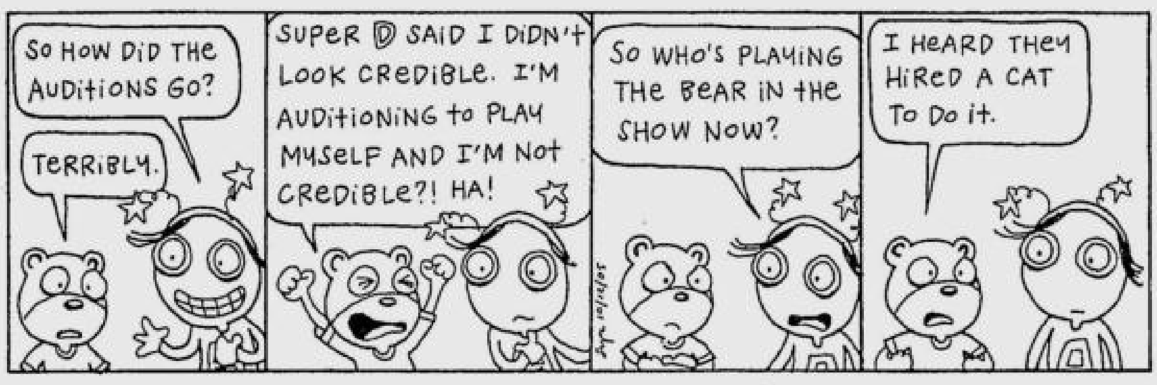
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


SOMEDAY I'M GONNA TRAVEL TO EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.
I'M GOING TO EXPLORE CAVES, CLIMB MOUNTAINS, SWIM RIVERS, CROSS DESERTS AND HACK THROUGH JUNGLES THAT NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN BEFORE!
SAID THE KID WHO'S NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO CROSS THE STREET.
I DIDN'T SAY IT WAS GOING TO BE EASY!

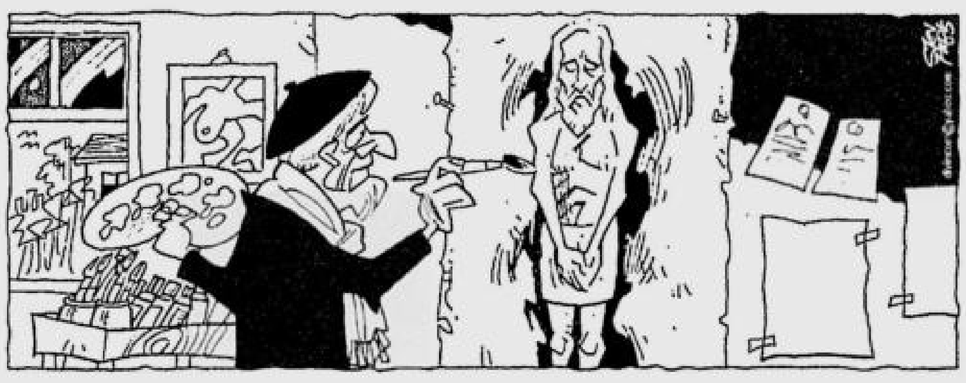
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MOOCH! WHAT'S WITH THE SHOES?
THEY MATCH THE BAG.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
10-12

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


So HOW DiD THE AUDitiONS GO?
TERRiBLY.
SUPER D SAiD I DiDN'T LOOK CREDiBLE. I'M AUDitiONiNG to PLAY MYSELF AND I'M Not CREDiBLE?! HA!
So WHO'S PLAYiNG THE BEAR iN tHE SHOW NOW?
I HEARD THEY HiRED A CAT To Do it.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THE MAKING OF THE SHROUD OF TURIN

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Your personality is larger-than-life. You're warm, generous and outgoing. You like being the center of attention. You're very helpful to friends and family. You have strong social skills, and you're very dependable. You know what you're doing, and you get the job done. You're extremely competent. This year highlights your closest relationships and partnerships.

Birthdate of: Hugh Jackman, actor; Joan Rivers, comedian/TV host; Marion Jones, track star.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel sympathetic toward a friend today. You feel like this person's pain is your pain. You want to help if you can.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have very high ideals today. You want great things for yourself and for the world. However, you have to ask yourself, Am I being realistic?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You have a strong desire to escape somewhere today. You want to be anywhere but here. You want to fulfill a secret dream to go somewhere.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might use your money or possessions to help someone today. You're concerned about shared property and other people's wealth in some way.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Relationships are totally confusing today. Perhaps your expectations are unrealistic? Another thing to keep in mind is that unexpressed expectations almost always lead to disappointment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's hard to concentrate at work today. It's all too easy to drift off into a dream world. However, you feel very kind and sympathetic toward co-workers now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your ability to be creative is marvelous today. You have wonderful ideas. You're full of imaginative ideas and ways to express your talents.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): A family member needs your help today. Quite possibly, you need help from others. Either way, this is a good day to reach out in sympathy to loved ones.

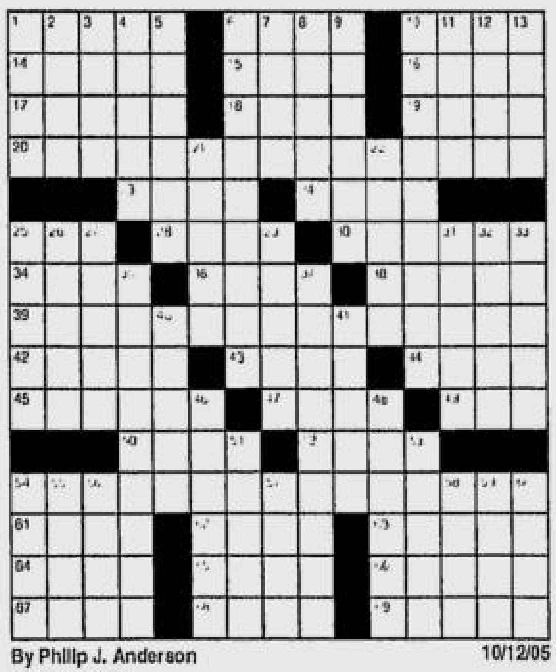
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You can't help daydreaming today. Your mind keeps drifting off into other subjects. You feel very psychically tuned in to others. (You almost know what they're thinking.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is not a good day to make important financial decisions. You could give away the farm. You feel sympathetic and generous, but you might not be practical and realistic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Today you feel warm and kind toward others. You easily sympathize with the pain and suffering that someone is undergoing. You will help if you can. (Your prayers and good wishes are something.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You are definitely in touch with your psychic self today! The Moon is perfectly lined up with your ruler, Neptune.

DAILY CROSSWORD


By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
10/12/05

ACROSS
1 Societal standards
6 Rudiments
10 Gung-ho
14 Pennsylvania sect
15 Let fall
16 Actress Sorvino
17 French landlord's due
18 Swerve
19 Actor Morales
20 Softball pitcher's asset?
23 Length of a life
24 Deep-orange chalcedony
25 Spanish article
28 Dated leader?
30 Termination of existence
34 "__ Sanctorum"
36 Mare fare
38 Yellow-fever mosquito
39 Miniaturist's asset?
42 Marker of stones
43 Emerald Isle
44 London art gallery
45 Implant firmly
47 Parking meter site
49 Actor Chaney
50 Gruff bark
52 Ta-ta, Luigi!
54 Pugilist's asset?
61 Smallest Great Lake
62 Hamburg wife
63 Sticky-toed lizard
64 Granny
65 Cal Tech grad
66 Dine at home
67 Defunct
68 Latin being
69 Incline

DOWN
1 Japanese ship name
2 Harbinger
3 Cheese coat
4 Adlai's running mate
5 Tenzing Norgay, e.g.
6 Edge
7 Light machine gun
8 Some students
9 Move farther apart
10 Constitutional afterthought?
11 Workbench device
12 Levin and Gershwin
13 Speaker's platform
21 Vietnam's capital
22 Not look forward to
25 Joust weapon
26 Body of water
27 Step
29 Set of values
31 Utopian
32 __ San Giovanni (Milan suburb)
33 City on the Ruhr
35 Kansas City stadium
37 Makeup
40 Honker
41 Weird
46 Molasses candy
48 Emblems
51 Glacial masses
53 Actor Ryan
54 Watch over
55 "Dies __"
56 Ms. Lollobrigida
57 Hangs down
58 External: pref.
59 Omit
60 Unit of loudness

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	S	H	■	B	L	I	S	S	■	C	L	A	M
R	U	L	E	■	L	U	N	C	H	■	H	A	L	O
O	D	O	R	■	O	S	S	I	E	■	I	T	E	M
S	I	T	O	N	T	H	E	F	E	N	C	E	■	■
S	O	H	I	O	■	■	T	I	N	E	■	S	P	A
■	■	■	C	O	M	P	■	■	■	A	C	T	O	R
T	L	C	■	K	E	E	P	O	U	T	O	F	I	T
V	E	R	B	■	T	R	E	A	T	■	P	A	S	S
S	T	A	Y	N	E	U	T	R	A	L	■	D	E	Y
E	M	C	E	E	■	■	■	S	H	A	G	■	■	■
T	F	K	■	O	U	S	T	■	■	S	U	A	V	E
■	■	■	D	O	N	T	T	A	K	E	S	I	D	E	S
A	M	O	K	■	T	A	P	E	R	■	E	O	N	S
I	O	W	A	■	E	K	I	N	G	■	T	R	U	E
D	E	N	Y	■	R	E	N	T	S	■	S	E	E	N

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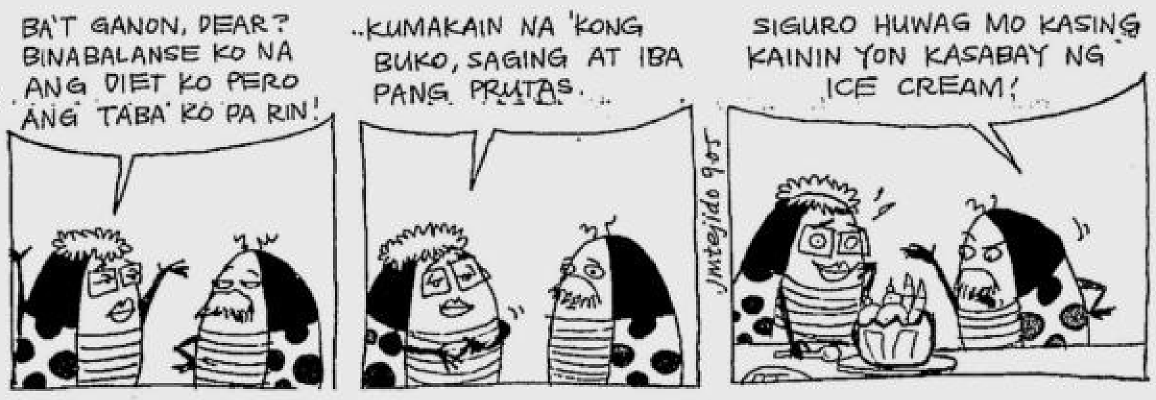
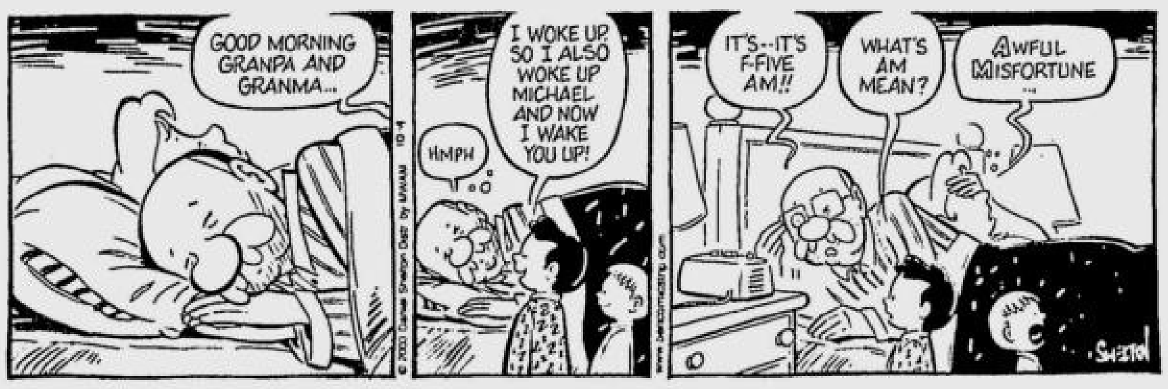
10/12/05

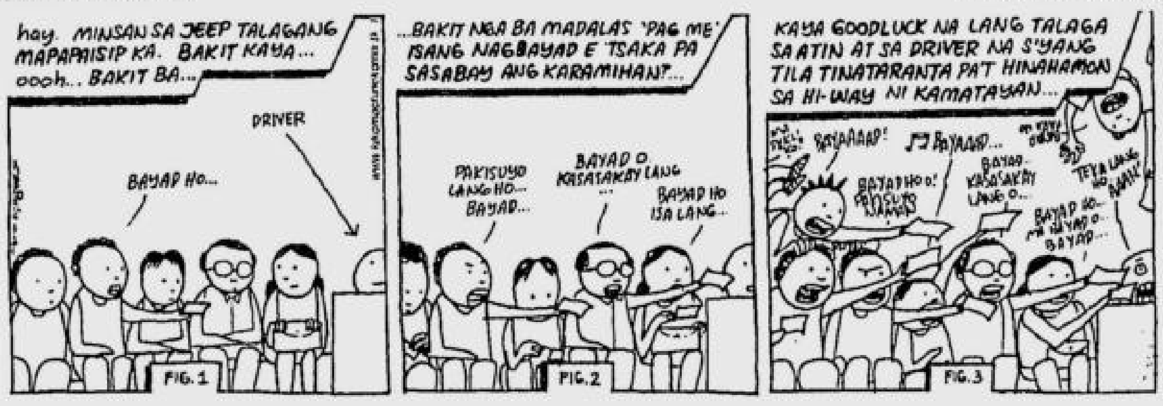
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BA'T GANON, DEAR? BINABALANSE KO NA ANG DIET KO PERO ANG TABA KO PA RIN!
..KUMAKAIN NA 'KONG BUKO, SAGING AT IBA PANG PRUTAS.
SIGURO HUWAG MO KASING KAININ YON KASABAY NG ICE CREAM!
jmtejido 9.05

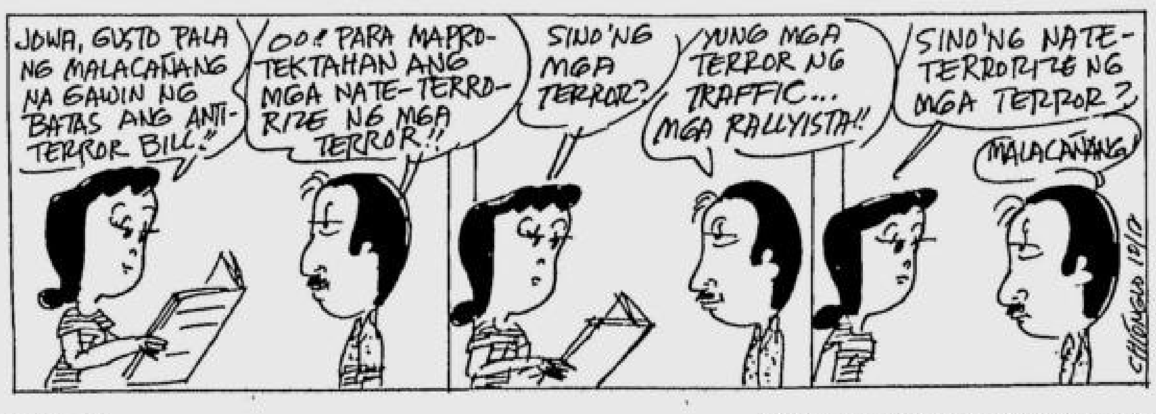
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


GOOD MORNING GRANPA AND GRANMA...
HMPH
I WOKE UP SO I ALSO WOKE UP MICHAEL AND NOW I WAKE YOU UP!
IT'S--IT'S F-FIVE AM!!
WHAT'S AM MEAN?
AWFUL MISFORTUNE ...
SHELTON

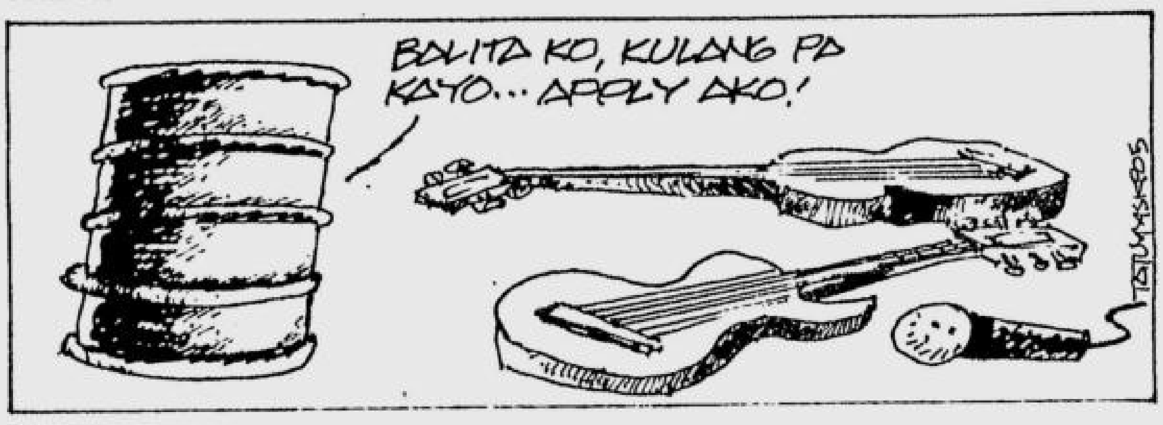
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


hay. MINSAN SA JEEP TALAGANG MAPAPAISIP KA. BAKIT KAYA... oooh.. BAKIT BA...
DRIVER
BAYAD HO...
FIG. 1
...BAKIT NGA BA MADALAS 'PAG ME' ISANG NAGBAYAD E TSAKA PA SASABAY ANG KARAMIHAN?...
PAKISUYO LANG HO... BAYAD...
BAYAD O. KASATAKAY LANG ...
BAYAD HO ISA LANG...
FIG. 2
KAYA GOODLUCK NA LANG TALAGA SA ATIN AT SA DRIVER NA S'YANG TILA TINATARANTA PA'T HINAHAMON SA HI-WAY NI KAMATAYAN...
BAYAAAD!
BAYAAD...
BAYAD HO O!
BAYAD. KASATAKAY LANG O...
BAYAD HO... PA BAYAD O... BAYAD...
TEKA LANG HO. AAAH!
FIG. 3

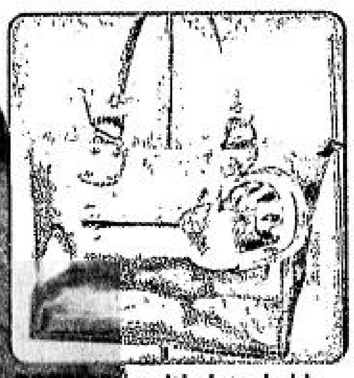
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, GUSTO PALA NG MALACAÑANG NA GAWIN NG BATAS ANG ANTI-TERROR BILL!
OO! PARA MAPRO-TEKTAHAN ANG MGA NATE-TERRO-RIZE NG MGA TERROR!!
SINO'NG MGA TERROR?
YUNG MGA TERROR NG TRAFFIC... MGA RALLYISTA!!
SINO'NG NATE-TERRORIZE NG MGA TERROR?
MALACAÑANG
CHIONGLO 10/12

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BALITA KO, KULANG PA KAYO... APPLY AKO!
TATUMASKED05

PANTS, P669.75

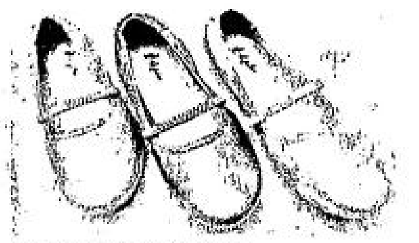


GREEN bag with detachable fruit accents, P399

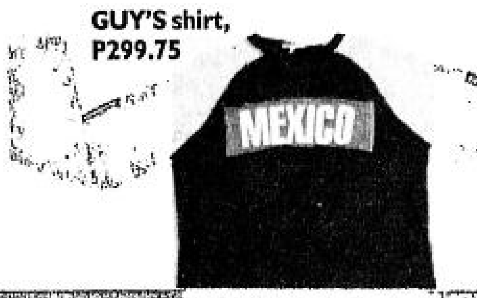
SHOE fetish bag, P419

STARRY Bag, P299

SILVER bag with studs, P749



METALLIC flats, P399



GUY'S shirt, P299.75

GLITTERY slides, P199

LOVE IT! Tank dress with tulle ball skirt by Arcy Gayatin, P3,000

Gushing over Gaisano

Paris Hilton-esque pink sandals for only P399. Sizes tend to run small, so you better try on your shoes before you buy them.

If you're totally into the bohemian look but would rather disappear from the face of the earth than look like every other boho chick in the city, check out the bohemian areas both at the teens' wear and the ladies' section.

There are unique tops (from P200-P700) and beautifully layered skirts (from P400-P800) that would definitely make you stand out from the boho clones invading our streets. There are so many packs of traveling gypsies in malls now that it's just not cool anymore. (Here's a tip: We have nothing against your desire to make sure everything you wear matches, but please, wear just one boho item at a time, unless you want people to ask you to tell their fortune.)

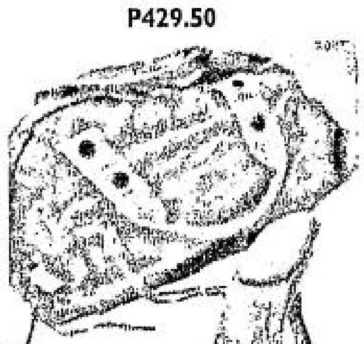
GUSHING/ D4

DRESS with wooden bead accents, P529.75

TANK top, P299.50 and panties, P169.50

TURQUOISE tunic, P728

COLORFUL tunic, P429.50



PINK is the new pink. Bag, P599, shoes, P399

HAND-painted wallets

HAND-painted jeans, P999.75

SKIRT, P529.50

San Miguel BEER
OKTOBERFEST
KASIYAHANG WALANG KATULAD
• SUNDAN ANG SAYA! •
BLUEWAVE, MACAPAGAL AVE.
EASTWOOD, LIBIS
EDSA CENTRAL
GATEWAY MALL, CUBAO
INTRAMUROS
METROWALK
PERIMETER ROAD, OLONGAPO
SM CITY, CEBU
STA. LUCIA, CAINTA
STARMALL, LAS PIÑAS
STATIONS 1, 2 AND 3, BORACAY
THE STRIP, GREENHILLS
THE VENUE, DAVAO
• SCHEDULE OF EVENTS •
Kickoff Party: FRIDAY, SEPT 30
Closing Party: FRIDAY, OCT 28
MONDAYS TO THURSDAYS:
Activity Booths • Beauty Contest
SMB Lucky 7 (P1M Cash Giveaway)
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Bands • Parties • SMS Promo
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ANUMANG HILIG MO, NANDITO SA PARAISO!
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DRINK MODERATELY

JAMPACKED and loving it
MANILA'S party scene looks bright.

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

And the beat goes on

Tim Yap

YOU JUST HAVE TO GIVE IT TO THE Big Fish crew for believing that Manila can dance again—not that it has ever stopped dancing.

At the latest Hed Kandi party at the Philtrade Center, all of Manila got a dose of dance candy (and more). I made sure to be there early, just to say hello to the folks from Addict Mobile—but it was too much fun that I ended up staying up way past my bedtime (that's sunrise, as if you didn't know).

Homegrown talent DJ **Benjo Marquez** gave the best warm-up starting midnight, setting the pace and making the early birds get on their feet. It was one of those moments when the front act really shone that people even waited for Benjo's second set right after the main Hed Kandi attraction.

Benjo's batch of world-class DJ talents—such as brother music meisters **Jon** and **Marc Naval**, **Karl Ty** of Superfly, **Martin Pulgar**, and **Owens Sun**—is really rocking the scene now and it seems the future of our party scene looks bright.

At the beginning of the event, I played fly on the wall and observed the city's ever evolving party set. The "party set" gets younger and younger—and I like it that way. Our generation is the type to be eager to live it up and experience all there is to live for. The knee-jerk reaction to this "baby party set" phenomenon is to complain "that everyone is so young these days." If you are one of these people, then it's about time you get out of your cubicle and stop fussing about your space. Nothing sounds more "old and jaded" than that outdated ditty.

It's synonymous to your great granddad saying, "Back in our day" (insert sepia-tinted memory here).

While I do admit that being alone gives you great insight on things (I would never discount that), sometimes exposing yourself to stuff outside your normal routine opens new doors of perception. By all means, open all the doors—then choose which one you'll enter later.

Misconceptions

The more mature set (i.e., us) should realize there is enough pie for everyone to share. Even at the jampacked Hed Kandi party, I did a city scan and phoned my moles all over the country (from Baguio to Davao) and they alerted me that all is well and happening in the other parts of our town. It's not like before when, if there's a giant party happening, the other spots are empty. Our population is expanding, you know.

It's interesting to note that it seems like people always have something to criticize about the party scene. When there's no party scene, they'll call it dead. When it's back on the upswing, they'll attribute it to the proliferation of illegal substances.

What people may overlook is the Pinoy's natural penchant for a good time. It's the modern version of the fiesta—that is in our blood. Being a "partyphile" doesn't make you a wild child out to get trashed and make a fool of yourself. Although there are some who go overboard, who become the subjects of cautionary tales during dinner conversations—but that's more the exception than the rule. Moderation is key.

YOUNGER AND YOUNGER. Th[illegible]

My funny memory was seeing this girl walk into the party spot in the highest stilettos I've ever seen (and I've seen a lot in my life, mind you) and wearing a handkerchief disguised as a skirt. Party purists may cringe at the thought, but it seemed like she was having a good time, so I applaud her effort (or non-effort) in the way she chose to present herself.

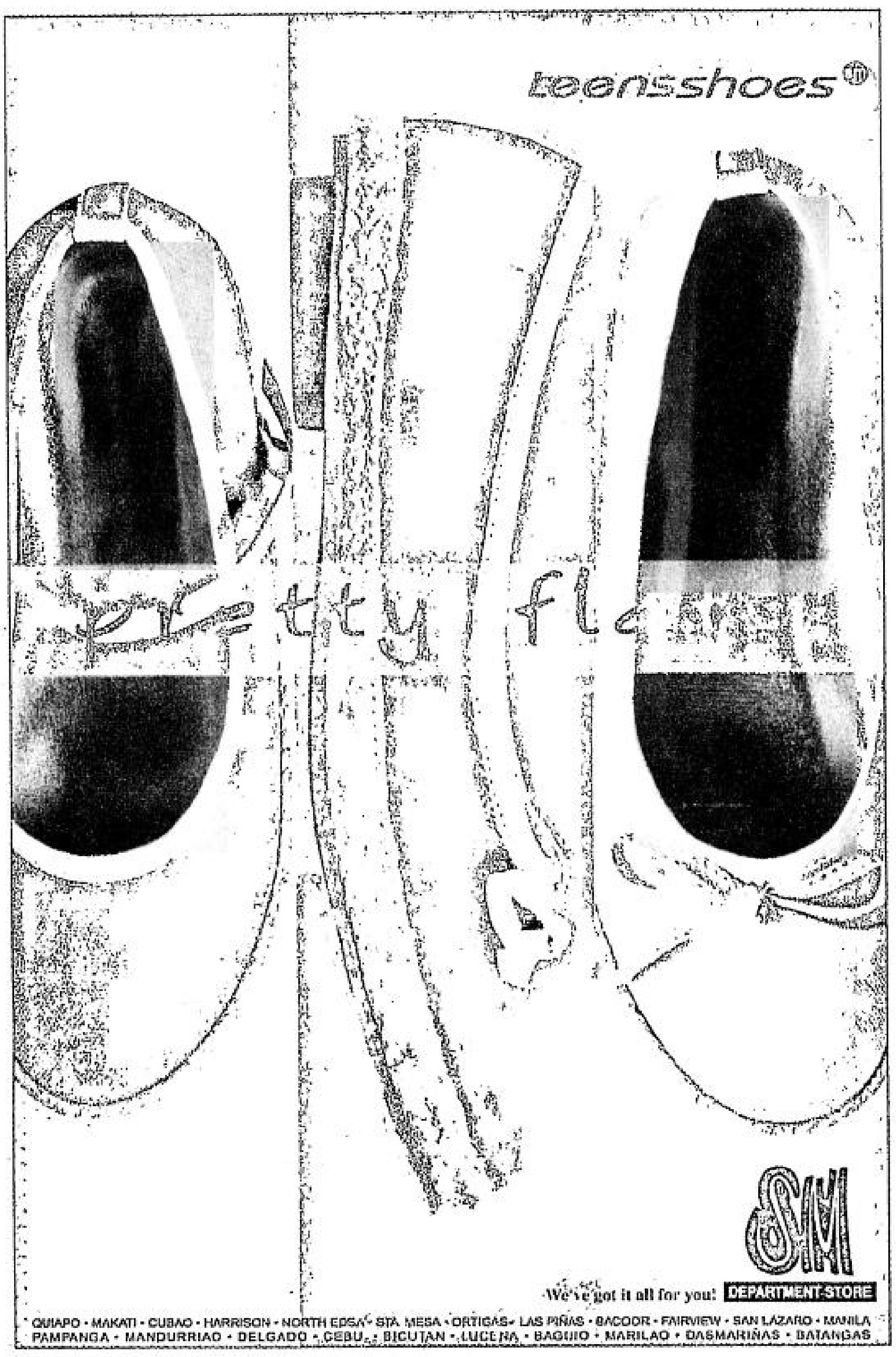
On the other side of the VIP row, **Rajo Laurel** and company arrived in cowboy gear (from a theme party); they looked like they came from the cast of "Footloose." **Mariko Jacinto** wore fur with her tee and **Celine Lopez** (who turned a year younger Oct. 8—go ahead, greet her!) was in an embellished little black dress.

At the party's peak, the whole crowd sang in unison, "Coz life is a pleasure with you by my side and there ain't no current in this river we can't ride. I still believe in ever after, with you, yeah." Yap—that may very well be the undisputed anthem for that feel-good-natural-high-head-trippy-eye-candy-filled night.

Bublé in Manila

I am a hopeless romantic and watching **Michael Bublé's** concert, like watching "Moulin Rouge" or "The Other Side of Midnight," always gives me that high. A friend gave me his CD and I later found out that he was going to perform in Manila the following week. We met at the Presidential suite of the Shangri-La and established a good friendship. I've watched every single Bublé concert in Manila. He'll be here again on Oct. 12. (Call Ticketnet at 9115555 for ticket details.) If you love listening to his music, seeing him live is double the delight. He puts so much heart in his performances. It's addicting, like eating chocolates, like falling in love

While you are reading this, I'll probably be in Paris already—will be back soon. Pop me an e-mail at supertim@pldtdsl.net.



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Gushing over . . .

From page D3

Guys can join in on the shopping fun, too. There are lots of cool shirts going for just P99, P129 and P149.

We especially love the vintage-looking Bob Marley shirt with cutout letters that you can buy for just P349.75.

Metro Market! Market! is also a great place to find creations from great Cebuano designers. The Fashion Freaks are now officially big fans of Cebu fashion designer Arcy Gayatin, thanks to her fabulous pop-culture tank dresses with the tulle ball skirt. How can you proclaim your love for The Rolling Stones or Bob Dylan and look fabulous at the same time? Arcy has the answers.

Metro Market! Market!'s dressing rooms are comfortable and spacious; they're large enough to dance in.

No wonder our photo shoot turned into a mad buying frenzy.

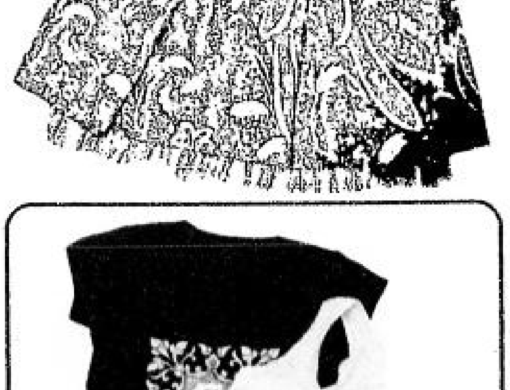
We're pretty sure your trip will, too.

Metro Gaisano at Market! Market! Department Store is open Mondays to Thursdays from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on Fridays to Sundays. While the Metro Gaisano Supermarket is open Monday to Sunday from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Located at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, it can be reached by car, jeepney, FX or bus. A full service transport terminal, open space parking, new parking building, and basement parking in Metro Supermarket are also available for your convenience.

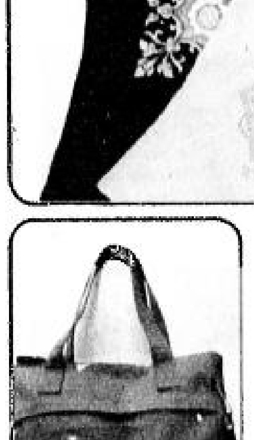
E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

Do you want the Fashion Freaks to visit your store or see your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.

PLEATED skirt, P549.75



PURPLE beaded shirt, P159.75, tank top, P159.75



RED bag with bear, P399

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